

Hafa Adai!

Two courtrooms reopen at Guma Hustisia. **PAGE 2**
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Villagomez is new House speaker

» Democratic Party now controls House after decades under GOP leadership

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Rep. Edmund Sablan Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) is the new speaker of the House of the Representatives after Rep. Ralph Naraja Yumul (D-Saipan) flipped his vote and broke the even split in yesterday afternoon's fourth voting for the speakership, ending the impasse in the longest House inauguration and organizational session that started Monday at 10am.



Villagomez

'CHCC can vaccinate 400 people a day'

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Jan 12, 2021

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,404	25	7,429
Recovered	7,146	43	7,189
Active	91	25	116
Deaths	124	0	124
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	106,132		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	128	0	128
Traced via Travel Screening	102	0	102
Traced via Community Screening	26	0	26
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	22,633*		
Days since last community transmission	147		

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

With 12,400 COVID-19 new vaccines on hand, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. said it can inoculate 400 persons per day, according to CHCC chief operations officer Subroto Banerji, who spoke at

See CHCC on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor



Rep. Edmund Sablan Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) presides over an organizational session after an 11-9 vote for him over Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) to be the speaker of the House of Representatives yesterday afternoon. Rep. Angel A. Dempan (R-Saipan) stepped aside from the speakership election yesterday after the third voting Monday late afternoon ended in an impasse.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Monday's inauguration was very special to newcomer Rep. Denita Kaipat Yangetmai (D-

Saipan). It was the 30th death anniversary of her father, Dr. Benusto Rogolifoi Kaipat, who was one of the pillars of the CNMI Democratic Party. See NOTEBOOK on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

3's Marias Kitchen is a bake shop and a cakeshop borne out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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NATION

Poised to impeach, the House sped ahead with plans to oust President Donald Trump from office.

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ASIA

Indonesian navy divers search through plane debris and seabed mud looking for the black box.

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Local

Two courtrooms reopen at Guma Hustisia

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The CNMI Judiciary has reopened two of the six courtrooms of the Guma Hustisia, two years since they were

closed back in 2018.

Since last week, the Superior Court has been using courtrooms 202 and 205 of the Guma Hustisia, in line with the court's deadline to fully reopen the courthouse

to the public by June this year.

The Supreme Court on the first floor remains closed due to its close proximity to the ongoing construction of the COVID-19 Screen-

ing and Security Zone at the front entryway of the Guma' Hustisia.

According to one of the men working at the construction site, the project will be completed soon but they don't

have a set date yet.

In a press release from the Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office, construction of the COVID-19 Screening and Security Zone, SSZ, is set for completion in

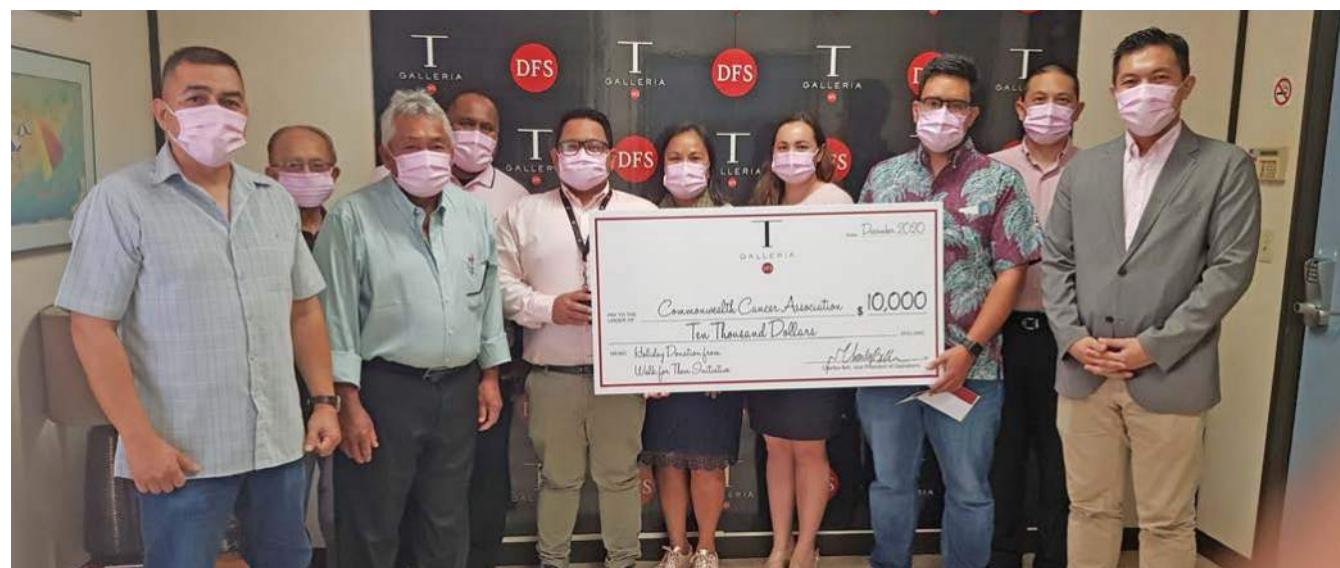
mid-January 2021.

The SSZ is being built using federal funds through the CARES Act. The judiciary received its allocation of CARES Act funds back in June 2020.

DFS holds global employee fundraiser; more than 700 employees raise \$180K

DFS Group, the world's leading luxury travel retailer, launched a global employee fundraising initiative in late 2020 in response to the increased difficulties experienced by vulnerable communities in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative, called "Walk for Them" resulted in a total of \$180,000 being raised to support more than 20 different charity organizations around the world.

DFS challenged its employees in more than 15 locations to track and register any number of physical workouts of their choice throughout the month of October. For every workout completed, the company made a reciprocal pledge to double the total amount raised. A total of 770 employees globally joined the initiative, complet-



DFS managers join Commonwealth Cancer Association board members and officials at the check presentation.

DFS

ing more than 4,500 workouts and registering more than 13,000 kilometers and 2,250 hours of workout activity

throughout the month.

While DFS held numerous initiatives throughout the year to support underserved

groups, Walk for Them also benefited participants, who were encouraged to maintain a healthy lifestyle during

months of disruption to their lives.

In the CNMI, DFS selected the Commonwealth Cancer

Association as its beneficiary and donated \$10,000 to CCA in a check presentation ceremony last Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021, at the T-Galleria.

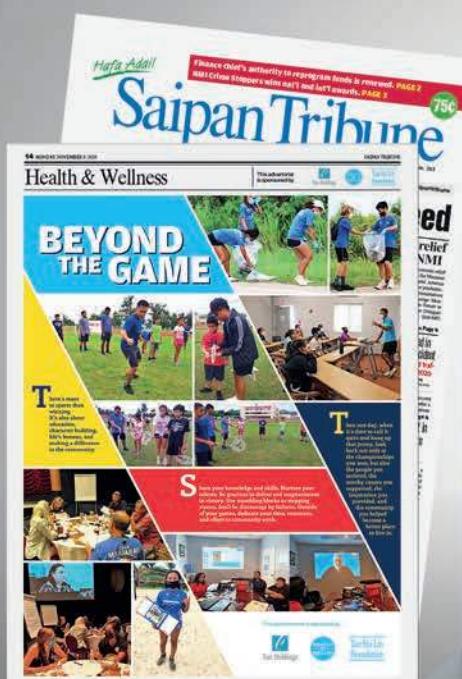
"We thank the Commonwealth Cancer Association for all that they do for the community and we have partnered with them in raising awareness with our employees where some of them have benefited from their services", said Billy Cheung, acting general Manager for DFS Saipan.

In accepting the donation, CCA board president Bo Palacios thanked DFS for their support since the organization's beginnings and acknowledged that, although it is a challenging and difficult year for DFS, they appreciated the company's generosity. (PR)

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Cop in assault case makes bail for \$200

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has allowed the release of a Department of Public Safety police officer after she posted \$200 of her initial bail in a case where she is facing assault charges.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho allowed Iris John Rangamar, 26, to post 10% of her initial \$2,000 cash bail.

Rangamar, who was off-duty at the time of the alleged incident, was identified as the person who assaulted a customer at Cheers Bar in Garapan last weekend. Footage of the assault was captured by the establishment's surveillance cameras.

Camacho imposed an initial cash bail of \$2,000 on

Rangamar but allowed her to post 10% of the bail or \$200. In addition, Camacho ordered the defendant to surrender her firearm and was ordered that she be placed on desk duty after posting bail.

Rangamar must follow a strict home-to-work schedule and will return to court for preliminary hearing on Jan. 20 at 9am and for arraignment on Jan. 26 at 9am.

Emily Thompson of the Public Defender's Office was appointed as Rangamar's defense counsel, while assistant attorney general Steve Kessel appeared for the government.

Rangamar is facing charges of assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

According to court documents, the male victim said a woman he did not know walked uninvited into the pri-

vate room of Cheers Bar in Garapan where he and a male friend were drinking alcoholic beverages.

The victim said the woman jumped on his lap, pinned him down and began punching him in the face and torso. He tried to push her off, but the woman ripped open his button-down polo shirt and scratched him several times on the chest and on the stomach.

When he was able to push her off, he ran out of the private room.

Outside the private room by the bar, the victim said he was punched in the back of the head and was pushed, causing him to fall against a glass door, which then shattered and broke.

When police responded to the scene, the attacker had already left the bar. The victim showed the officers the inju-

ries he sustained after the altercation with the woman. Police saw four scratch marks on the victim's chest, a laceration

on his lower chest, an abrasion on his stomach, and a bump/swelling and redness on his eyebrow and cheek.

After reviewing the security footage from the bar, investigators allegedly identified the woman as Rangamar.

Fiesta's Krishnan named Rotarian of the Year for 2020

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Das Krishnan, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Food & Beverage director, is the 2020 Rotarian of the Year for the Rotary Club of Saipan.

Krishnan was first named Rotarian of the Year for 2020 last June 30, 2020, when the club inducted its new officers and was honored again with the recognition yesterday.

According to Krishnan, it was double past president and charter member David "Uncle Dave" M. Sablan who inspired him to join the club. "I took his advice and I joined and Uncle Dave was [my] sponsor," said Krishnan.

When asked how he manages to be involved in the community while managing the F&B department of the Fiesta Resort, Krishnan said his passion for working with people is what makes him find the time to do what he does.

"I relax and I meet a lot of people. I try to do things



Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Food and Beverage director Das Krishnan is named "Rotarian of the Year" during yesterday's Saipan Rotary Club lunch meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Ballroom.

NEIL FAMA

Foundation.

Krishnan assured that he still has a lot of energy that makes him want to keep participating in community events for the club until he "runs out of energy."

The "Rotarian of the Year" is a member who exhibits "Service Above Self" in their daily activities and who promotes Rotary by their actions and involvements. This may be accomplished through one major activity in club service, in multiple activities, or by serving on several committees.

Federal financial aid available for NMC's spring semester

Students who are looking to access federal financial aid for the Northern Marianas College's spring 2021 semester can still file a 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA. Students should submit a FAFSA before the spring semester starts on Jan. 19, 2021.

Qualified students can receive up to \$3,173 in federal financial aid for the spring

semester. The Federal Financial Aid program is administered by the U.S. Department of Education. Through the program's various types of grants, loans, and scholarships, the Federal Financial Aid program is the largest financial aid provider in the U.S.

The FAFSA is available online at fafsa.ed.gov and can also be completed by using the myStudentAid smartphone app available for iOS and Android. NMC's school code is 015746.

To verify eligibility for Pell Grants, students can contact the NMC Financial Aid Office through email at fao@mariannas.edu or call 237-6791. The NMC Financial Aid Office is also open from Monday to Friday, 9am – 4pm. (NMC)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-21-007

FINA SISU WATERLINE REPLACEMENT (W16-051)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Fina Sisu Waterline Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of a new main waterline and lateral service line; connection to the existing waterline; relocation of water meters from private property to right-of-way, installation of gate valve assembly, flush hydrants, fire hydrants, air release valves, existing laterals service tap relocation to new main waterline, restoration of existing asphalt concrete road, restoration of existing concrete slab on grade; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in 365 calendar days from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on December 28, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-21-007s, Fina Sisu Water Line Replacement", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 14, 2021, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Bids shall be accompanied by a bid guarantee of not less than fifteen percent (15%) of the amount of the bid. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 4, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Dennis Formalejo, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any non-material imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES (RAES) CUC-RAES-21-008

CONSULTANT FOR INTEGRATED RESOURCE AND OTHER UTILITY PLANNING & OTHER SERVICES

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for a Consultant (Project Engineer) from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for Professional Services for the development of studies and the ultimate expansion of Power Plant #1 and Design, Build and Construction of a New Power Plant in Lower Base on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Proposers for this RAES must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Scope of Work (SOW) of the RAES may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one RAES package set.

One (1) Non-Priced Proposal & One (1) Priced Proposal marked "CUC-RAES-21-008, CONSULTANT FOR INTEGRATED RESOURCE AND OTHER UTILITY PLANNING & OTHER SERVICES" must be submitted via email to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior, Purchasing Technician via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 11, 2021**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAES does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAES and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

The selection of an A&E firm for the award of a contract will be by a committee appointed by the CUC Executive Director for this purpose, which will evaluate responses to this solicitation. Selection shall be made in accordance with CUC Procurement Regulations §50-50-305 regarding Architectural and Engineering Services. Discussions shall be conducted with at least 3 of the responding firms (or less if fewer than five firms respond) regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made therefrom. Based on the scoring criteria outlined herein, only the three most highly qualified firms shall be invited to discuss further the firm's qualifications and project approach outlined in the scope of work.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project will be entertained only for pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 22, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Technician, Senior—via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.



Kilili: \$74.4M for Marianas education

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The CNMI is getting another \$74.4 mil-

SPEAKER

From Page 1

Party controlled the House was not immediately clear, but some said it was in the 4th Legislature.

The former House speaker, Blas Jonathan Tenorio Attao (R-Saipan), was elected vice speaker, while Yumul was elected floor leader on an 11-9 vote, over Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), who withdrew from the speakership's race at the beginning of the 4pm organizational session. That prompted Rep. John Paul Palacios Sablan (R-Saipan) to nominate Rep. Ivan Alafonso Blanco (R-Saipan) to the speakership.

With Yumul voting for Villagomez over Blanco, this broke the 10-10 tie.

Villagomez received applause from lawmakers as he then took over the session from Attao, who was the speaker pro-tempore at the inaugural session.

Villagomez has been serving the House representing Precinct 3 since the 18th Legislature. He was the top vote-getter at the Nov. 3 general elections.

In a later interview, Villagomez said he looks forward to working with all the House members in his new role and moving the CNMI forward. "We have a lot of issues that we're facing. And we need to all work together to tackle these issues, not just here in the House, and the Senate, but in the administration as well," he said.

When asked why it took four votes and two days for him to be elected speaker, Villagomez said it's just part of the process.

"I think this is the first time in history this has happened and it has gotten this far. This is probably the longest inauguration organizational session. But it is part of the process," he said. "And at least now, we have some kind of a reference for future lawmakers when situations like these come up."

Villagomez said he is grateful for the opportunity, the privilege, and

CHCC

From Page 1

the Rotary Club of Saipan's weekly meeting yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan.

Responding to a comment of a Rotary member (that he read that there were 12,400 doses that the CNMI received last Saturday, but when he went online to register, the site said that there were no more), Banerji clarified that the site won't allow people to register if there are no available vaccine slots.

He said there are 125 people working on vaccine operations at the Medical Care and Treatment Site at the upper parking lot of the Commonwealth Health Center who are administering 400 doses per day. This includes call center, registration, check-in, vaccination, observation, and data management.

lion for education from the coronavirus relief measure enacted last Dec. 27, according to a statement from the office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C.

the honor given to him to serve as speaker. "I'm forever grateful. Even for those who did not vote for me. I am here for them as well," he said.

As to what people could expect from his leadership, Villagomez said he wants to make this a collaborative leadership, pointing out that he is an independent speaker, while the vice speaker and floor leader are both Republicans.

"And even with the Democrats somewhat having the leadership, we still came to that compromise. And I hope that we continue in that spirit of working together for the betterment of the CNMI," he said.

As to how the Democratic Party managed to persuade Yumul to vote for him during the 4th voting, Villagomez said he and Yumul have the history of working together and he believes it came down to moving forward.

In a separate interview, Yumul stressed that he is still a Republican and that he only aligned with the Democratic Party in this instance.

"What people don't understand and realize is I ran with Edmund from the 18th Legislature and on, so we had a good working relationship. And I think people would start to see that we've been in the same legislature since I got in. So it wasn't hard," Yumul said.

He said he felt it would be an injustice to the CNMI if the voting had resulted in another impasse. "We need to function as a legislature and that's pretty much why I voted the way I voted," Yumul said.

As to what triggered him to align with the Democratic Party, Yumul said there were other discussions along the way. "I'm looking at the way how to move legislations from the House to the Senate. ...So it wasn't that difficult," he said.

Yumul said although he and Villagomez are from different parties, since they both ran since the 18th Legislature up to now, they made it clear that they support him in Precinct 3.

He said the CNMI is going through major challenges right now and they

Before getting vaccinated, Banerji stated that there's a lot of planning that happens before a person gets injected. He added that the steps (not in order) are vaccine preparation, vaccine delivery, registering, documentation of how many people got dose 1 and dose 2, etc.

It gets even more complicated. Now that CHCC has to administer doses 1 and dose 2, Banerji said they now have to plan strategically for both doses. "[We] realize that has to be a combination of new doses, and then 21 days later, we have to do the second doses. So if we go for 400 every day, we have to bring 400 people back 21 days later," said Banerji.

As an example, a graph that Banerji showed *Saipan Tribune* illustrated that if there are 374 people who are scheduled for dose 2, CHCC can only accept 26 people for dose 1. Today, Jan. 13, CHCC has 449

need new visions. Yumul said there's new members in the House with a lot of ideas. "It is something that I look forward to, with the new leadership," he said.

Yumul disclosed that the closed-door talks with all 20 House members last Monday became very heated and that he did not want that. "It was better off we come back the next day and voted and everybody had a clear a mind. We all voted and are happy that this leadership has been brought back to Precinct 3," he said.

Yumul said he is happy to be elected floor leader but acknowledged that, with an evenly split House, it's going to be tough but he still hopes to pass good legislation.

Blanco said he has the highest respect for Villagomez to lead the House forward during these unprecedented times. "I also wish to congratulate vice speaker Attao, floor leader Yumul and all the standing committee chairpersons," Blanco said.

He said he looks forward to working with them. "I also thank the members who supported me throughout the process. ...We extend the new leadership our best wishes," Blanco said.

Demapan said he withdrew for the race in hopes of breaking the deadlock since Monday. "After the three rounds of deadlock yesterday and after much reflection, I decided that perhaps if we give another person an option to be considered, that will break the deadlock," he said.

As for not getting the speakership, Demapan pointed out that it's a democracy and, in this field, a lot of the things they do are decided by a vote. "At the end of the day, we respect the result of the vote. It's no different today than from the election. I respect the decision that my colleagues have made today. We respect the new leadership and we look forward to addressing the issues of our Commonwealth together," Demapan said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

people scheduled for dose 2, which means that dose 1 slots are no longer available.

Banerji said that since CHCC and the COVID-19 Task Force will be supporting this initiative for the better part of 2021, vaccinating more than 400 per day would require resources not readily available nor sustainable for 12 months. Additionally, CHCC is required to update vaccination data daily for the CDC and Operation Warp Speed.

According to Banerji, CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña advocated getting a bulk shipment of COVID-19 vaccines instead of weekly shipments like the United States as this will help them plan strategically when planning for dose 1 and dose 2.

If the CNMI were to receive weekly shipments, Banerji said that CHCC won't be able to plan effectively for the first and second doses.

Sablan (Ind-MP) yesterday, who said the U.S. Department of Education announced the award yesterday.

The relief act sets aside \$409 million for the four smaller U.S. insular areas, which was divided among them based on the formula in Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Sablan revised that statutory formula in 2015 to be more favorable to the Marianas.

Of the \$74.4 million for the Marianas, \$61.7 million goes to the Public School System. This will "guarantee that all of our classroom teachers and support staff will not experience a single payless payday," Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada said when the relief act was passed.

The balance of \$12.7 million goes to the governor to use for educational purposes. This distribution is the same as was used for CARES Act funding in 2020; and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres gave his entire share, \$4.8 million, to Northern Marianas College.

» **\$61.7M earmarked for PSS**

This time around the total funding is substantially increased, however, so the governor could decide to provide more to PSS.

"With \$102 million in federal funding in less than one year—over and above all the regularly appropriated annual federal education money for Title I and Special Education, et cetera—education in the Marianas has a solid foundation," Sablan said, "even though the Commonwealth has been unable to meet its obligations because of the economic crisis caused by COVID."

"As chair of the House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education, I look forward to working with the incoming Biden administration to make sure America's teachers, students, and school systems have the resources needed to reopen and continue the learning the pandemic has interrupted." (PR)

cit, unpaid wages, worker protests, furloughs, retiree pensions, lack of accountability and transparency of their government, and the use and misuse of public funds

Deleon Guerrero said that people never surrendered their right to accountability and transparency of their government. "These are non-negotiable, for it is a government of the people, by the people, and for the people," she said.

Meanwhile, in her speech during the inauguration, Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) underscored the need for transparency "to build and foster trust and to ensure accountability."

Santos said leaders must also stand steadfast to promote unity to assure continuity of vital public services and programs and to alleviate many adversities brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"As an adage says, no leader can accomplish one alone," Santos said. "We should also welcome new visions and ideas from members or our chambers and our general public as, a saying says, two heads are better than one."

representatives, Gus Kaipat sang the U.S. and the CNMI national anthems with a ukulele. Kaipat skipped a high note portion of one anthem.

■ ■ ■

Newbie Rep. Leila Haveia Fleming Clark Staffler (D-Saipan) was probably the most emotional among representatives in delivering their speeches. Her voice sounded nervous too and she acknowledged she was indeed nervous. Most of the representatives only read a portion of their prepared remarks in order to save time at the inauguration and organizational session.

■ ■ ■

Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds attended the Senate's inaugural session as her brother is incoming Sen. Karl Rosario King-Nabors (R-Tinian). Kimberlyn King-Hinds was with her husband, assistant attorney general Chester Hinds. Kimberlyn King-Hinds looked gorgeous in her blush pink sheath dress.

NOTEBOOK

From Page 1

as well as a leader in the Refaluwasch community. Yangetmai is the lone Refaluwasch woman in the 22nd Legislature.

■ ■ ■

Many were expecting returning Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) to criticize Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his administration in his speech during the inauguration. Propst, however, did not do that, saying there are three things that people can expect from him: Love, respect, and kindness.

■ ■ ■

At the Senate's inauguration, Alexis B. Hofschneider and Nica Q. Sablan sang the U.S. and the CNMI national anthems. Alexis Hofschneider is the daughter of Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), while Nica Sablan is the daughter of Senate floor leader Vinnie F. Sablan (Ind-Saipan). At the House of Repre-

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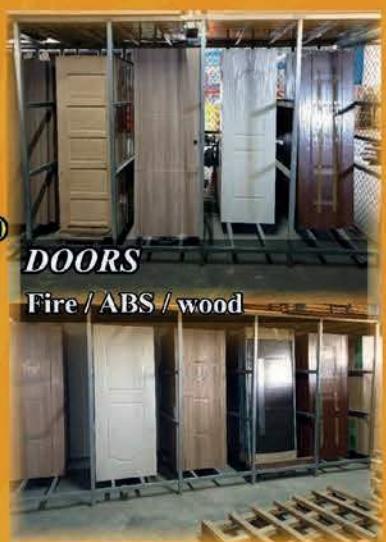
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Kilili introduces bill to lift Medicaid cap

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) reintroduced yesterday legislation that would provide unlimited federal funding for the Medicaid program in the Marianas and the U.S. territories.

Four committee chairs were among the 30 original cosponsors of Sablan's bill, including the new chair of the House Appropriations Committee, Rep. Rosa De-

Lauro (D-Connecticut).

Sablan met last week with President-elect Joe Biden's agency review team for the Interior Department to request Interior's Office of Insular Affairs work within the new administration to lift the Medicaid cap. Interior Secretary-designate Deb Haaland supports lifting the cap. She cosponsored Sablan's legislation doing so in the last Congress.

Lifting the cap to provide unlimited federal funds was supported by the Obama-Biden administration in its 2017 budget proposal, but the Trump administration never followed through. Even so, Sablan was successful at getting big increases for the Marianas in federal Medicaid spending during the last Congress. The statutory cap on Medicaid for the Marianas was \$6.7 million in fiscal year 2019, but Sablan

worked to have it raised to \$62.3 million this year.

The increased funding allowed the Commonwealth Health Center to remain open and reduced the need—and local spending—for off-island referrals.

"Lifting the cap is just a first step in bringing the Marianas into the public health insurance program for those with lower incomes," Sablan said. "To be just like a state we

also have to have the local-federal cost-sharing match based on the percent of lower income persons in the Marianas," said Sablan. "Both of these steps were endorsed by Presi-

dent-elect Biden as part of the Obama administration. I fully expect that, as President, Mr. Biden will continue to support Medicaid equity, because he has acknowledged—and committed to fix—the health care disparities that exist across America for minority communities like ours."



Sablan

In addition to the substantial rise in federal Medicaid funding that Sablan achieved in the last Congress, he was also successful in lowering the local match the Commonwealth govern-

ment must pay. The Commonwealth's local match went from 45% in 2019 to 10.8% this year. Before, for every \$1 the Commonwealth paid, the federal government paid \$1.22. Now, every \$1 from the Commonwealth brings in \$8.26 from the U.S. That new rate is better than for any U.S. state. (PR)

Equally American urges Biden to push for equality for citizens in territories

Equally American, a nonprofit organization that advocates for equal rights and representation for residents of U.S. territories, called on the Biden-Harris administration yesterday to fight for broader representation and equality for all citizens, wherever they live.



Weare

discriminated against in a broad range of federal programs, which can have life and death consequences," Weare said. "President-elect Biden made it a campaign promise to help bring an end to this discrimination, and we look forward to working with his administration to make that promise real."

In a Jan. 11, 2011 letter, Equally American asked the Biden-Harris administration to prioritize executive action and legislation to ensure equal rights and representation for residents of the territories. This includes enabling U.S. citizens in the territories to vote for President, Vice President, and voting representation in Congress, making it more difficult to get the attention of elected officials in Washington," said Equally American president and founder Neil Weare.

"Without the political influence that comes with full enjoyment of the right to vote, citizens in the territories are

interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals that include NMC alumni, students, and employees, can find more information by emailing proaperks@marianas.edu. (PR)

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**IN THE MATTER) CASE NUMBER:
OF THE PETITION) 20-0204-FCD
FOR THE CHANGE)
OF NAME OF:) NOTICE OF
MINGHUA QUAN) HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on March 26, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.
Dated this 12th day of November, 2020.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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Aqua Connections, Magbers are now NMC ProaPerks partners

Aqua Connections and Magbers Snack Bar are the latest companies to sign on as Northern Marianas College ProaPerks partners, joining many other businesses and organizations that provide exclusive discounts and benefits for NMC students, employees, and alumni.

All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now get a 10-15% discount on selected items



Aqua Connections is now a proud NMC ProaPerks partner. NMC

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Pay Rate: \$9.00 to \$15/hour based on applicant's qualification and experience.

Job Description: Must have a minimum of 3 years with customer relations/ loyalty club promotions, or 3 years experience as a marketing supervisor/ manager, along with 3 years of experience with E-gaming/ slot Club or Casino loyalty and or marketing. Applicants must be knowledgeable and capable of developing customer loyalty programs and creating promotion that has potential to attract customers and creating and maintaining marketing project timelines.

Excellent organizational and written/oral communication skills.

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at Kevin.perez@saipancountryclub.com



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Outgoing BOE members presented with service awards

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Four outgoing members of the 16th State Board of Education were presented Education Service Awards at the inauguration of the 17th BOE at the Marianas High School cafeteria in Susupe last Monday.

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada presented the service awards to retired sergeant major Herman Atalig, outgoing BOE chair Janice A. Tenorio, outgoing private school representative Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero of Mount Carmel School, and outgoing teacher representa-

tive Paul Miura of Saipan Southern High School.

Dr. Bobby Cruz, who is the director of PSS-Instructional Technology and Distance Education, described Tenorio as “one of the finest examples of a true advocate and supporter...of the CNMI Public School System.”

Cruz acknowledged the dedication, passion, commitment, and leadership that Tenorio put into both PSS and private schools during her term. “We just want to share special admiration for your genuine pursuit of growth and development of the CNMI State PSS through the CNMI State



Outgoing Board of Education chair Janice A. Tenorio, leftmost, calls members of the 16th BOE members on stage as she bids farewell during the board's inaugural meeting at the Marianas High School cafeteria in Susupe yesterday morning.

JUSTINE NAUTA

High risk of rip currents until Sunday

The public is being warned that there is a high risk of rip currents expected through Sunday night.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, dangerous rip currents will be present along east facing reefs of Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers

away from shore into deeper water.

Residents of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are advised to avoid venturing out along east facing reefs. Strong rip currents will be life threatening. Inexperienced swimmers should remain out of the water. Swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. (PR)

Board of Education, and all the work that you do to instill the values of innovation, and how you've participated in supporting change throughout the years, and we thank you,” said Cruz.

Tenorio assured that she will still be around and this won’t be the last time she will be seen helping the BOE. “Everybody knows [that] education is my passion, and for the past eight years I’ve fought for the best interests of the system and contributed,” she said, adding that

a lot more needs to be done.

Tenorio welcomed the new BOE members and those who will continue their terms, saying she’s confident the newly sworn-in members will do what they can to ensure quality education for all PSS students.

Deleon Guerrero, who has been the BOE’s private school representative for 13 years, said he is confident in the capability of the new board to do the job ahead of them. “This marks the end of 13 years of service, and I just want to

thank the entire PSS family. You guys have been through hell and back and you’re still here, you’re still standing here, still fighting. To all the members of the board past, present, and incoming, kudos to you for fighting the good fight,” said Deleon Guerrero

Miura, who was the BOE’s teacher representative for four years, said, “It’s been my distinct privilege and honor to serve and represent our amazing teachers, librarians, and counselors and...all the edu-

cators at [PSS].” said Miura. “To the 17th BOE, you have your work cut out for you and I have faith in you...”

Ron Snyder, Saipan International School’s headmaster, is the new BOE non-public school representative, while Phyllis Ain of William S. Reyes Elementary School, is the new BOE teacher representative. Herman Atalig, who ran unopposed last November, remains the BOE’s vice chairman, and Andrew L. Orsini is the new BOE chair.



Board Vacancy Announcement

CNMI residents are invited to express their interest in serving as a Board member for the Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council). The Council is a non-profit, private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities whose mission is to navigate and explore the human experiences of the indigenous and diverse peoples of the Commonwealth by enriching their lives through research, dialogue, programs, and publications.

The Council's Board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three-year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities and to actively participate in fundraising activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually;
- Raising funds for Council programs;
- Recruiting community partners;
- Promoting awareness about the Council's mission and its programs in the community;
- Attending Council programs and activities;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Providing input about the humanities from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the Council.

Applicants are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to Robert T. Torres, Chair, Northern Marianas Humanities Council at Post Office Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950, delivered to the Council's office located in the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai, Saipan, or via email to: info@nmhcouncil.org. For additional information, please contact the Council's Executive Director, Leo Panglinan, at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at www.nmhccouncil.org.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: DPW21-ITB-012

SUBMISSION DATE: February 16, 2021 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

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THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **January 13, 2021** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **February 5, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Rota West Harbor, Rota. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **February 10, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW**

**/S/FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES**

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Warp Speed slows to a gentle trot on vaccine rollout

The United States has inoculated about 1% of its population with the initial two doses. Health workers are of course the people who need COVID-19 vaccinations first. So it was dismaying to learn that people who didn't qualify for this initial round of shots nonetheless showed up at some vaccination centers to skip the line—and succeeded.

The procedural gap that allowed this to happen reveals other issues. People are afraid and confused. They aren't really sure when they are likely to qualify for vaccination or which group they belong in (there is a long list of tiers suggested by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which calls for sorting recipients by occupation, physical condition and age). They don't know how they will get their shots. Will it be at their doctor's office? At public vaccination clinics? At a pharmacy?

Though the federal government helped speed the development and approval of effective vaccines, it failed to plan an effective rollout even though it had months to do so. It left that effort to states—there are now more than 50 rollout plans—providing only suggestions for who should get the precious vials first. It's a messy system that is at least partly responsible for the nation's slow start on vaccinations.

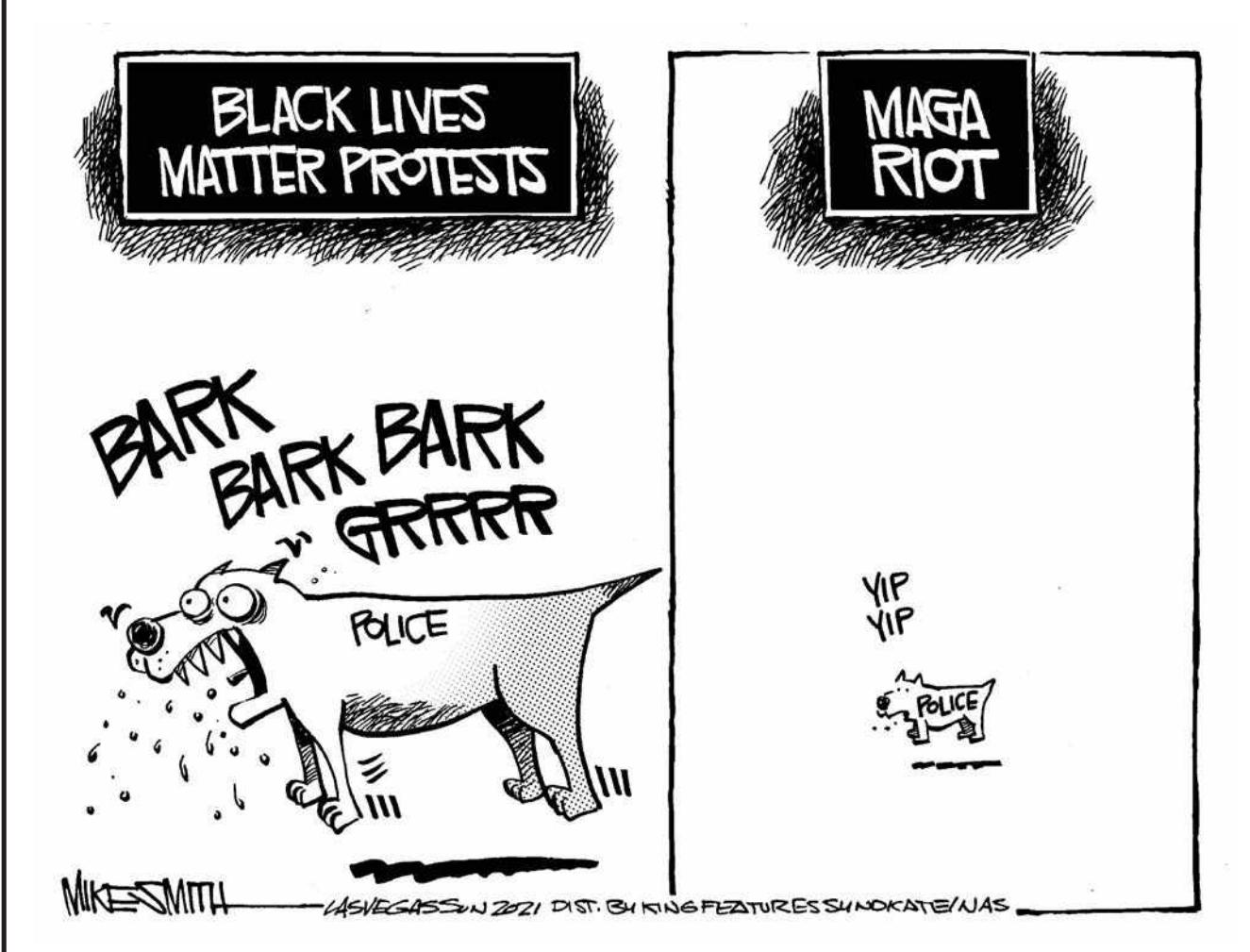
Look, this isn't easy. The vaccines require unusual or even extraordinary refrigeration measures. Safety workers who qualified for the vaccine foolishly are declining to show up for it. And recipients have to wait around for 15 minutes after inoculation to make sure they don't show signs of a severe allergic reaction. At the same time, all the recipients have to be kept safe distances from one another; they're not protected yet!

Vaccination is something most of us will just have to wait for—and hope it proves effective against the new variant that's been found. People without risks or essential jobs are looking at the summer, assuming the rollout goes more smoothly from this point on. As with personal protective equipment, the federal government took a hands-off approach and left too much to states, which were poorly equipped to carry this out.

At minimum, far more outreach is needed, as well as regular updates on how many people have been vaccinated so far in which categories. Beyond that, the state and counties should have an online query system on which people can get answers to common questions and find out where they are in the waiting list and when they are most likely to receive their doses.

The American Hospital Association offered federal health authorities a list of good suggestions that should be adopted. Those include federal intervention to smooth out problems in state and local planning; consistent rules from state to state; the tracking and evaluation of vaccinations; and a standardized process for administering the vaccines.

(c) 2021 The Los Angeles Times



5 nice things to say about politics in 2020

It was a dreadful year, obviously, and that applies to U.S. politics, too. Nevertheless, believe it or not, some stuff was worth celebrating.

Here are five good developments:

Republicans for democracy: In a year when the Republican Party overall showed an alarming and apparently accelerating lack of support for U.S. democracy, we should recognize those who stepped up when it counted. Begin with Mitt Romney, who was the only senator in his party to risk the consequences when he voted to remove President Donald Trump from office. That was an honest-to-goodness-profile-in-courage moment.

And don't forget the NeverTrump conservatives who were not only able to see the flaws of the man in the White House (which really wasn't hard to do), but who were willing to examine how their own party reached the point where Trump could dominate it. And then there were the GOP politicians in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin who, when push came to shove (sometimes literally), chose democracy over blind loyalty to a Republican president.

It's not that these politicians are always heroes of the republic. Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, for example, has gone right back to fighting to make it harder for people to vote, just as he did before the election. But when it really counted, Raffensperger and many others made the correct choice.

Elections and their supporters: A pandemic. Post office troubles. Underfunded governments. Unprecedented nonsense coming from the White House. Even threats of violence. Yet voters, state and local governments, and thousands and thousands of poll workers combined to make the 2020 elections remarkably successful. The turnout was the highest in over a century (or ever, given voter rules), and the process went relatively smoothly and with no hint of irregularities. Indeed, there was so little in the way of fraud that Trump's lawyers didn't have much of anything to allege in court, no matter what they alleged on third-rate cable-news shows.

Yes, we shouldn't ignore significant efforts to make voting harder even while the virus was spreading. But even Republican states (like my own Texas, for example) did quite a bit to make the election go reasonably smoothly.

Diversity, Republican Party edition: After several cycles in which Republicans nominated Anglo men for the overwhelming bulk of winnable open seats and seats held by Democrats, the party finally made progress in fielding candidates that look like 21st-century America. Thanks to a bit of a Republican trend in House voting, their nominations produced new elected officials—and 39% of new House Republicans will be women, with more ethnic diversity as well. Descriptive representation isn't

By JONATHAN BERNSTEIN

Bloomberg Opinion



Jonathan Bernstein is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering politics and policy. He taught political science at the University of Texas at San Antonio and DePauw University and wrote *A Plain Blog About Politics*.

everything. But it's not healthy for a party to choose leaders only from a fragment of the population.

Diversity, Democratic Party edition: President-elect Joe Biden is at least the third Democratic president committed to making sure that all party groups are represented in White House and executive-branch personnel. But he has one enormous advantage in fulfilling his promise: Members of previously excluded groups have become key party actors. Biden could choose from multiple female, Black and Latino candidates with conventional qualifications for every post, something that wasn't the case for Bill Clinton in 1992-1993.

Do-some-things Congress: I'm not sure what overall grade historians will give the exiting 116th Congress. It's hard to see any progress on the nation's long-term problems. In terms of deliberation and other procedural questions, there was little to brag about. The rushed impeachment, brief trial and acquittal (without even calling witnesses) of Donald Trump? We'll be fighting about that one for a long time, but I don't hear a lot of people calling it one of institution's finest hours.

But when a genuine emergency came around, Congress acted pretty quickly. Four bills passed in rapid succession, including the \$2.2 trillion CARES Act, which was signed on March 27. None of these laws were ideal, of course; laws never are. And pushing the follow-up bill from April to December meant that plenty of pain that could have been avoided was not.

Still, we shouldn't ignore these accomplishments, even as people argue about what could have been better. This was a divided Congress—a Democratic House and Republican Senate—with majorities in both chambers hotly contested in the November elections. And it was a Congress that was getting no help at all from the Disrupter-in-Chief in the Oval Office, who set off random grenades throughout the process while never demonstrating any policy leadership. Congress-bashing is easy, but we should make some room to recognize achievements, too.

Do these five good things represent a low bar—more in the category of “could have been worse”? Sure. But it's 2020. Let's take what we can get, and hope for a healthier republic in 2021.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Trump's shameful Georgia call

President Donald Trump has turned a narrow electoral defeat into a bid for infamy.

His goal in the post-election interlude has been more and more explicitly to overturn the results of the election. Indeed, a couple of weeks ago he tweeted simply, "#OVERTURN."

We now know, thanks to a recording of his phone conversation with Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger from over the weekend, how far he's gone to pressure state officials to join him in this reprehensible goal. His hour-long lobbying of Raffensperger to declare him the winner in the state is among the worst things an American president has ever been caught saying on the record.

There is now no doubt that Trump lost Georgia. Both machine and hand recounts have confirmed a Biden victory of fewer than 12,000 votes. Trump has been agitating for a signature audit, and state officials examined a statistically significant sample of 15,000

absentee ballot envelopes in Cobb County. They found 10 mismatched signatures, but the voters in question all vouchsafed for the legitimacy of the ballots when contacted by investigators.

Georgia has certified its results multiple times and appointed its electors in time to meet the "safe harbor" deadline under federal law, when they are supposed to be considered final and conclusive by the federal government.

Yet, here comes Trump with an LBJ-style bout of arm-twisting to get Raffensperger to declare all of that a grievous mistake.

The power differential between a president of the United States and a state secretary of state is vast—Trump is the most powerful man on the planet whereas Raffensperger isn't even the most powerful man in Georgia.

Trump put Raffensperger in the inherently awkward position of having to tell him "no" over and over—snowing him with a variety of numbers for supposed illegal votes, making him parry wild accusations, mocking him and threatening him with vague legal repercussions and, implicitly, with the end of his political career.

There is a reason that Raffensperger didn't take any of the reported prior 18 attempted calls from the White House.

Still, to his great credit, he did indeed tell Trump "no" politely and firmly. Of the two elected officials on the call, only one was calm, reasonable and cogent—and it wasn't the president.

Trump was repetitive and ill-informed. He had no idea what charges had been debunked weeks ago. He didn't, or couldn't, distinguish between true and false information. He was fuzzy on the details of his own legal case. He retailed conspiracy theories about ballots being burned and voting machines being removed that would be embarrassing if your uncle shared them on Facebook.

The only thing that mattered to him was getting Raffensperger to pronounce him the winner—legal process and facts be damned.

The problem with Trump has always been his highly personal view of the presidency, wherein institutions, constitutional principles and sheer propriety take a backseat to the felt needs of his ego.

At times in his presidency, this failing has been made to serve worthy ends, e.g., stoking economic growth and confirming record numbers of conservative judges as bragging points.

Since the election, though, this tendency has been particularly stark and unredeemed. His personal inability to accept the sting of defeat has led him, shamefully, to wage war on a legitimate election.

If he were to somehow succeed in his goal of overturning the result, he would subvert American democracy and irreparably harm our governing institutions, while stoking a constitutional crisis of a magnitude we've only experienced rarely in our history.

And for what? To avoid admitting that he lost.

Trump has gotten nowhere, except in convincing some Republican senators and members of Congress to indulge his insistence he really won. Every time the president hoped someone with authority over the election would bend his way, whether an elected official or judge, he's found someone like Raffensperger, dutiful and conscientious enough to say "no."

It took a mob riot for Twitter to finally ban Trump

Whose megaphone will President Donald Trump use now?

In the wake of the horrifying attack on the U.S. Capitol, major social media companies have all "deplatformed" Trump and some of his fellow traffickers in false claims about the November 2020 election. Joining them Friday in the cancel ceremonies was Twitter, Trump's favorite vehicle for spreading deception and calumny.

After Twitter finally started labeling Trump's deceptive tweets for what they were last May, I wrote that the company had waited three years too long. That delay, combined with Twitter's ongoing refusal to make Trump abide by the rules that apply to everyone else on the network, made the ban inevitable.

The long-overdue deplatforming could be an analgesic for the Trumpists' fever dreams about overturning Joe Biden's victory in November, which Congress formally certified several hours after the Capitol was cleared. No other microblogging or messaging service has the reach in the United States of Facebook, Instagram or YouTube. None can have the sort of impact for Trump that Twitter has.

But some critics, especially those on the right, object to the giant social networks enforcing their terms of service simply because they are giant. Their scale, these observers argue, has transformed them into the 21st century equivalent of the public commons.

Maybe so! But that doesn't change the fact that they are not government actors, so they're not bound by the First Amendment. And even promoting a free speech culture does not mean amplifying all speech.

Twitter's analysis of Trump's last two tweets, issued after the president's personal account had been suspended for a day, is instructive.

The first tweet proclaimed that "The 75,000,000 great American Patriots who voted for me, AMERICA FIRST, and MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN, will have a GIANT VOICE long into the future. They will not be disrespected or treated unfairly in any way, shape or form!!!" The second stated, "To all of those who have asked, I will not be going to the Inauguration on January 20th."

The company looked across the Twitterverse to see how the tweets were being interpreted by Trump's seditious followers. And what it found was chilling.

Trump's use of the phrase "great American Patriots," Twitter said, was "being interpreted as support for those committing violent acts at the U.S. Capitol." Trump's announcement that he's

By **RICH LOWRY**

King Features Synd., Inc.



Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

Trump won't attend Biden's inauguration. Thank goodness

By **MICHAEL MCGOUGH**

Los Angeles Times



Michael McGough is the Los Angeles Times' senior editorial writer, based in Washington, D.C.

President Donald Trump, his Twitter privileges restored, tweeted this on Friday morning:

"To all of those who have asked, I will not be going to the Inauguration on January 20th."

To which we should all respond: "Thank God."

Before Wednesday's siege of the Capitol by a Trump-worshipping mob, you could have argued that Trump's presence at Biden's swearing-in might somewhat restore the norms Trump trashed in spreading lies about a "rigged" election.

But as long as Trump continues to maintain that he really won the election — even as he grudgingly promises "a smooth, orderly and seamless transition of power" — his presence wouldn't promote national reconciliation. In what is being called a "hostage video" on Thursday, the closest Trump came to admitting defeat was to say that "Congress has certified the results" and "a new administration will be inaugurated on January 20th."

Vice President Mike Pence's attendance at the inauguration would give it a bipartisan character. Pence reportedly plans to participate, but hasn't received a formal invitation. Biden should be sure that he receives one. George W. Bush, the only living Republican former president, also plans to attend.

Trump will be only the fourth president not to attend the swearing-in of his successor. The last one, Andrew Johnson in 1869, was also impeached and disgraced — too-eerie parallels.

One argument for Trump's attendance is that it might dampen protests by his supporters on Inauguration Day. But you can just as easily argue that his presence would rile up Trump cultists, who would be unlikely to interpret his presence as a sincere acceptance of Biden's legitimacy.

Weighing the relative probability of those scenarios isn't worth anyone's time. A truly smooth transition of power requires what Trump is unwilling to provide: a recognition that Biden was duly and fairly elected and a recantation of the outrageous lies that fueled Wednesday's insurrection.

But there's also a moral argument against Trump's attendance. He simply has no right to participate in the inaugural ceremonies after encouraging his followers to participate in a "wild" protest on the day Congress met to count electoral votes — a protest that turned into a deadly siege.

Whether or not Trump is impeached again, he has no legitimacy to confer on Biden with his presence at the inauguration. His loathsome presence would only taint the proceedings.

By **JON HEALEY**

Los Angeles Times



Jon Healey is the Los Angeles Times' deputy editorial page editor.

blowing off the inauguration was seen by some "as further confirmation that the election was not legitimate" and as a disavowal of the president's stated support for an orderly transition of power. "The second Tweet may also serve as encouragement to those potentially considering violent acts that the Inauguration would be a 'safe' target, as he will not be attending," Twitter wrote.

That's some quality signal tracing right there.

But for heaven's sake, why did it take a mob of Trump zealots storming the Capitol, and five deaths that resulted, for Twitter to look at what Trump has been signaling across its network? Or for Facebook to cut off Trump's use of its network to microtarget his snake oil?

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has said he doesn't feel comfortable playing the role of speech police. But he's created one of the world's most powerful amplifiers, and he's rightly set standards—low standards, sadly—for what people can do with it. World leaders should be held to the same rules as everyone else; otherwise, social networks are giving those politicians a means to communicate which is less transparent and public than the powerful soapboxes that come with their offices.

Twitter similarly has said there's a public interest in seeing what's on the minds of important figures. But those figures have their own platforms and their own microphones. No private company is obligated to hand over its platform to a president in the supposed interest of newsworthiness and history. That just feels like a pretext for maintaining the huge audiences that controversial figures such as Trump bring.

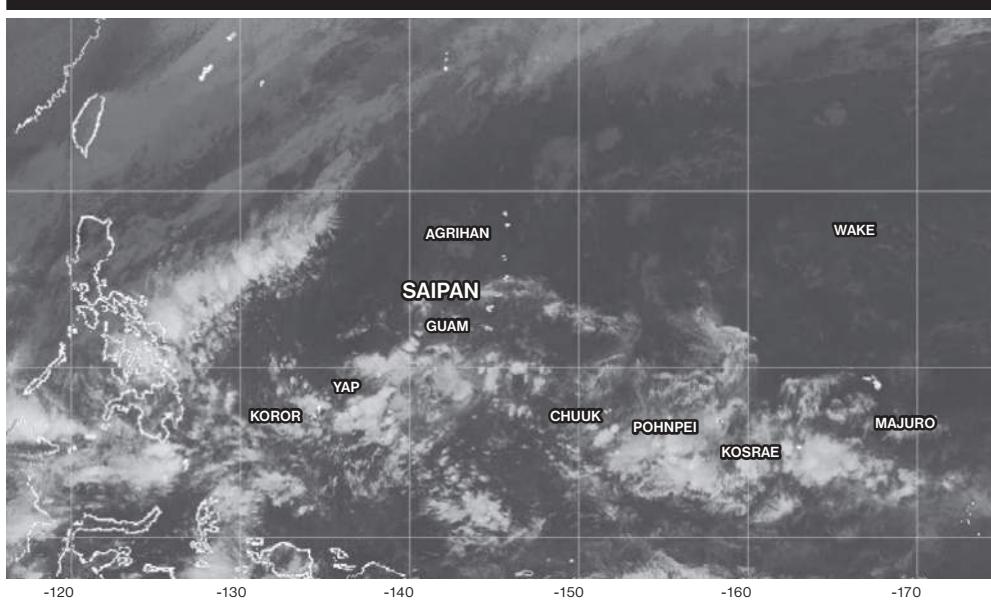
Going forward, there's only one way for Facebook, Twitter and their counterparts to proceed: Enforce their rules against misinformation, threats and slander diligently and fairly against every user, no matter how powerful or weak. Otherwise, they're just inviting outraged regulators and lawmakers to set and enforce the rules for them.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Mostly cloudy. A chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. A chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
86°	77°	86°	77°	86°
86°	77°	87°	77°	87°
77°	86°	86°	77°	77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:19 AM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moderate to fresh trade winds are seen from the Mariana Islands eastward to 160E, then fresh to strong trades from 160E to the Date Line. A trade-wind disturbance is approaching the Date Line from 15N 177W. Two very weak surface impulses are triggering spotty light showers east of the Mariana Islands near 15N 154E and 15N 159E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas

to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>.
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Source: Office of the Governor

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

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MICRONESIA		
	▲ Partly Cloudy	▼ 85° / 77°
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	84° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:05 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:06 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:06 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:07 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:37 AM	6:06 PM	-
Thursday	7:33 AM	7:06 PM	-
Friday	8:24 AM	8:04 PM	-
Saturday	9:10 AM	8:59 PM	-
Sunday	9:51 AM	9:50 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		
	▲	▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	76° / 63°
Beijing	Sunny	46° / 20°
Hong Kong	Cloudy	63° / 56°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	82° / 69°
London	Rain	50° / 42°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	75° / 53°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	85° / 74°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 59°
Miami	Cloudy	76° / 64°
New York	Mostly Sunny	45° / 34°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	50° / 41°
Paris	Showers	50° / 46°
Busan	Sunny/Wind	53° / 31°
Rome	Sunny	53° / 36°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	53° / 31°
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	58° / 44°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	47° / 17°
Tokyo	Sunny	52° / 34°
Washington, DC	Sunny	51° / 31°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
1:40 AM	Low Tide	-0.80
8:54 AM	High Tide	1.78
2:12 PM	Low Tide	1.09
6:55 PM	High Tide	1.81

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS							
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN							
UA117 6:55am 7:35am 1, 4, 6				UA174 5:10am 5:51am 1, 4, 6							
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN							
UA117/183 6:55am 9:50pm 1 via Guam				UA184/174 10:40pm 5:51am+1 3, 5 via Guam							
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM							
UA183 8:00pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 5				UA184 10:40pm 4:30am+1 1, 3, 5							
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)											
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.											
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021											

Business



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
3's Maria's Kitchen is located at the Island 7 Color Building across Surfrider Resort Hotel along Beach Road in Chalan Kanoa.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
3's Maria's Kitchen accepts made-to-order cakes for any occasion.

other products. I get feedback that our products taste good. My advice to other entrepreneurs is to not be afraid to follow their passion...when they know they can do it, just do it. Don't think of excuses because God will provide," she added.

3's Maria's Kitchen is located at Island 7 Color Building across Surfrider Resort Hotel along Beach Road in Chalan Kanoa and they are open everyday from 8am to 6pm. For more information, call (670) 788-0212, email evelynbaetiong@gmail.com, and like their Facenook page "3's marias kitchen."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
3's Maria's Kitchen introduced the first cake in a can concept in the CNMI with flavors that are sure to delight like original flavor Dream Cake and Luscious Triple Chocolate with Almonds.

3's Marias Kitchen pioneers 'cake in a can' on Saipan

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrera@saipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

When Evelyn Baetiong lost her job during the COVID-19 pandemic, she knew she had to keep working somehow to survive. By asking herself what she loves doing the most that she can share with the community, it was like a lightbulb that said "baking" and that is how 3's Marias Kitchen was born.

"3's Maria's Kitchen is a bakeshop and a cakeshop. We sell a variety of baked goods

like custard cake, brazo de mercedez whole or slice, and many more. What sets us apart from other bakeshops is we offer specialties—cake in a can and choco butternut... Our products are made through passion and love and since I have dual roles—owner and baker—I make sure that all of our products are fresh, unique, and tastes good," she said.

"I also do customized cakes for any occasion and listen to clients what they want in terms of décor and design of the cake... For now we only

do take-out but one of the future plans include adding more products for dine-in operations," she added.

From a simple hobby turned into business, Baetiong said she took her time because she did not want to make mistakes. "I started purchasing baking tools and items to complete my equipment. At first, I was just taking orders from home when friends ask me to bake cakes for them."

She added "The same friends pushed me to open shop and share the baked

goods to a bigger segment of the community."

3's Maria's Kitchen's cake in a can starts at \$5 a tub, eight pieces of choco butternut is only \$5, and according to Baetiong, the cost of customized cakes depends on the size and design that the customer wants. "One thing is for sure, I do not overcharge customers. We want our customers to be satisfied with the products that they paid for," she said.

"Most of our old and new customers are happy and they keep on coming back to try our

Business grows skittish about Trump and GOP after riots

WASHINGTON (AP)—Corporate America is quickly distancing itself from President Donald Trump and his Republican allies, with many of the biggest names in business—Goldman Sachs, Coca-Cola, Ford and Comcast—suspending political donations after a Trump-inspired mob ransacked the U.S. Capitol in a deadly and violent spree last Wednesday.

For now, the move is about affirming the rule of law and the clear results of an election that will elevate Democrat Joe Biden to the presidency. But it also signals that companies are growing skittish about lawmakers who backed

Trump's false claims of election fraud, possibly depriving Republicans of public backing from business groups who until recently were the heart of the GOP's political brand.

"This is spreading like wildfire," said Jeffrey Sonnenfeld, a professor at Yale University's management school who consults with CEOs. "The U.S. business community has interests fully in alignment with the American public and not with Trump's autocratic bigoted wing of the GOP."

Yet the pausing of donations announced by many companies—including Marriott, American Express, AT&T, JPMorgan Chase, Dow, Amer-

ican Airlines and others—was unlikely to deliver a serious blow to Republicans in Congress who voted to overturn Biden's win.

"These are symbolic pledges," said Sheila Krumholz, executive director of the Center for Responsive Politics, a nonpartisan group that traces the role money plays in politics. "This is just one source of revenue and for some it's vanishingly small, particularly in the Senate."

Corporate-sponsored political action committees are limited to donating \$5,000 per candidate each year. In races that often cost incumbents millions of dollars, such contributions account for just a

small fraction of the overall fundraising picture.

Take Sen. Josh Hawley. The Missouri Republican has drawn widespread scorn, including from longtime supporters and Senate Republican leadership, for becoming the first senator to announce he would oppose the certification of Biden's victory.

Since 2017, when he launched his Senate bid, only about \$754,000 of the \$11.8 million he raised came from corporate PACs and trade groups. That accounts for about 15% of his total fundraising haul, according to an analysis of campaign finance disclosures.

Right-wing app Parler booted off internet over ties to siege

The conservative-friendly social network Parler was booted off the internet Monday over ties to last week's siege on the U.S. Capitol, but not before digital activists made off with an archive of its posts, including any that might have helped organize or document the riot.

Amazon kicked Parler off its web-hosting service, and the social media app promptly sued to get back online, telling a federal judge that the tech giant had breached its contract and abused its market power.

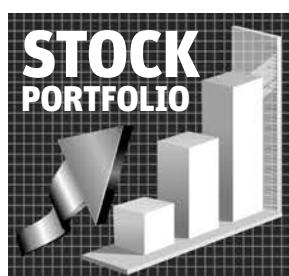
It was a roller coaster of activity for Parler, a 2-year-old magnet for the far right that welcomed a surge of new users and became the No. 1 free app on iPhones late last week, after Facebook, Twitter and other mainstream social media platforms silenced President Donald Trump's accounts over

comments that seemed to incite Wednesday's violent insurrection.

The wave of Trump followers flocking to the service was short-lived. Google yanked Parler's smartphone app from its app store Friday for allowing postings that seek "to incite ongoing violence in the U.S."

Apple followed suit on Saturday after giving Parler a day to address complaints it was being used to "plan and facilitate yet further illegal and dangerous activities." It was later joined by Amazon Web Services, the leading provider of cloud computing infrastructure, which informed Parler it would need to look for a new web-hosting service after Sunday.

Parler CEO John Matze decried the punishments as "a coordinated attack by the tech giants to kill competition in the marketplace."



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
31,008.69	3,799.61	13,036.43
-89.28	-25.07	-165.54
0.29%	0.66%	1.25%

In U.S. dollar terms

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	1.2981	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7543	Russian Ruble	73.7801
British Pound	0.7386	Indian Rupee	73.0667	Singapore Dollar	1.3304
Canadian Dollar	1.2767	Japanese Yen	104.2770	South Korean Won	1080.23
Chinese Yuan	6.3603	Malaysian Ringgit	4.0310	Swiss Franc	0.8911
Euro	0.8231	New Zealand Dollar	1.3939	Taiwan Dollar	27.5915
		Philippine Peso	47.2435	Thailand Baht	30.1510

Nation

House speeding to impeach Trump for Capitol ‘insurrection’

WASHINGTON (AP)—Poised to impeach, the House sped ahead with plans to oust President Donald Trump from office, warning he is a threat to democracy and pushing the vice president and Cabinet to act even more quickly in an extraordinary effort to remove Trump in the final days of his presidency.

Trump faces a single charge—“incitement of insurrection”—after the deadly Capitol riot in an impeachment resolution that the House will begin debating Wednesday.

■ ■ ■
WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump’s acting head of the Department of Homeland Security abruptly resigned Monday, leaving the post ahead of schedule as the nation faces a heightened terrorism threat from extremists seeking to reverse the election.

The announcement by acting DHS Secretary Chad Wolf was perplexing. It came less than a week after Wolf pledged to remain in office and just 10 days before the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden. Wolf cited a legal challenge to his leadership as a reason for his resignation, but that had surfaced months ago.

“For months we have known Chad Wolf has been serving illegally in his position, so the timing of his resignation from the Department today is questionable,” said Rep. Bennie Thompson, the chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee. “He has chosen to resign during a time of national crisis and when domestic terrorists may be planning additional attacks on our government.”

Wolf, who had been serving in an acting capacity since November 2019 and was never confirmed by the Senate, said he was compelled to leave by “recent events,” including court rulings that found he could



Rep. David Cicilline, D-R.I., talks to reporters just outside the House chamber after a resolution calling for the removal of President Donald Trump from office was blocked by Republicans, at the Capitol in Washington, Monday, Jan. 11, 2021. AP

not legally hold the position. He did not specify the other events or cite other factors.

“These events and concerns increasingly serve to divert attention and resources away from the important work of the Department in this critical time of a transition of power,” he said in a written message to DHS employees.

■ ■ ■
At the same time, the FBI warned ominously Monday of potential armed protests in Washington and many states by Trump loyalists ahead of President-elect Joe Biden’s inauguration Jan. 20. In a dark foreshadowing, the Washington Monument was closed to the public amid the threats of disruption. Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf abruptly resigned.

It all added up to stunning final moments for Trump’s presidency as Democrats and a growing number of Republicans declare he is unfit for

office and could do more damage after inciting a mob that violently ransacked the U.S. Capitol last Wednesday.

“President Trump gravely endangered the security of the United States and its institutions of Government,” reads the four-page impeachment bill.

“He will remain a threat to national security, democracy, and the Constitution if allowed to remain in office,” it reads.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is summoning lawmakers back to Washington for votes, and Democrats aren’t the only ones who say Trump needs to go.

Republican Sen. Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania joined GOP Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska over the weekend in calling for Trump to “go away as soon as possible.”

Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., encouraged House GOP colleagues late Monday to “vote your conscience,” according to a person granted anonymity to discuss the private call. She has spoken critically of Trump’s

actions, but has not said publicly how she will vote.

Pending impeachment, Democrats called on Vice President Mike Pence and the Cabinet to invoke their constitutional authority under the 25th Amendment to remove Trump from office before Inauguration Day.

Their Democrats’ House resolution was blocked by Republicans. However, the full House is to hold a roll call vote on it Tuesday, and it is expected to pass. After that, Pelosi said, Pence will have 24 hours to respond. Next would be the impeachment proceedings.

Pence has given no indication he is ready to proceed on a course involving the 25th Amendment.

He and Trump met late Monday for the first time since the Capitol attack, a senior administration official said.

Trump and Pence had a “good conversation” in the Oval Office discussing the week ahead, and they pledged

to continue working for the remainder of their terms, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private meeting.

No member of the Cabinet has publicly called for Trump to be removed from office through the 25th Amendment.

As security tightened, Biden said Monday he was “not afraid” of taking the oath of office outside—as is traditionally done at the Capitol’s west steps, one of the areas where people stormed the building.

As for the rioters, Biden said, “It is critically important that there’ll be a real serious focus on holding those folks who engaged in sedition and threatening the lives, defacing public property, caused great damage—that they be held accountable.”

Biden said he’s had conversations with senators ahead of a possible impeachment trial, which some have worried would cloud the opening days of his administration.

Going big: US dispensing shots at stadiums and fairgrounds

The U.S. is entering the second month of the biggest vaccination drive in history with a major expansion of the campaign, opening football stadiums, major league ballparks, fairgrounds and convention centers to inoculate a larger and more diverse pool of people.

After a frustratingly slow rollout involving primarily health care workers and nursing home residents, states are moving on to the next phase before the first one is complete, making COVID-19 shots available to such groups as senior citizens, teachers, bus drivers, police officers and firefighters.

Emily Alexander, a fourth-grade teacher in hard-hit Arizona, got vaccinated in a round-the-clock, drive-thru operation that opened Monday at the suburban Phoenix stadium where the NFL’s Arizona Cardinals play. She said she hopes it means she can be reunited in person with her students and colleagues before the end of the year.

“I miss the kids so much,” the 37-year-old Alexander said. “I’m really looking forward to seeing them and their families, being able to hug them. That has just been so tough.”

Similarly, in Britain, where a more contagious variant of the virus is raging out of control and deaths are soaring, seven large-scale vaccination sites opened Monday at such places as a big convention center in London, a racecourse in Surrey and a tennis and soccer complex in Manchester.

Across the U.S., where the outbreak has entered its most lethal phase yet and the death toll has climbed to about 375,000, politicians and health officials have complained over the past several days that too many shots were sitting unused on the shelves because of overly rigid adherence to the federal guidelines that put an estimated 24 million health care workers and nursing home residents at the front of the line.

About 9 million Americans have received their first shot, or 2.7% of the U.S. population, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Experts say as much as 85% of the population will have to be inoculated to achieve “herd immunity” and vanquish the outbreak. (AP)

FBI warns of plans for nationwide armed protests next week

WASHINGTON (AP)—The FBI is warning of plans for armed protests at all 50 state capitals and in Washington, D.C., in the days leading up to President-elect Joe Biden’s inauguration, stoking fears of more bloodshed after last week’s deadly siege at the U.S. Capitol.

An internal FBI bulletin warned, as of Sunday, that the nationwide protests may start later this week and extend through Biden’s Jan. 20 inau-

guration, according to two law enforcement officials who read details of the memo to The Associated Press. Investigators believe some of the people are members of extremist groups, the officials said. The bulletin was first reported by ABC.

“Armed protests are being planned at all 50 state capitols from 16 January through at least 20 January, and at the U.S. Capitol from 17 January through 20 January,” the bulletin said, according to one

official. The officials were not authorized to speak publicly and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

The FBI issued at least one other bulletin—they go out to law enforcement nationwide on the topic—before the riots last week. On Dec. 29, it warned of the potential for armed demonstrators targeting legislatures, the second official said.

“While our standard practice is to not comment on specific intelligence products,

the FBI is supporting our state, local, and federal law enforcement partners with maintaining public safety in the communities we serve,” the bureau said in a statement.

“Our efforts are focused on identifying, investigating, and disrupting individuals that are inciting violence and engaging in criminal activity.”

The FBI said it wasn’t focused on peaceful protests but “on those threatening their local law enforcement agencies to provide any support requested,” he said.

citizens with violence and destruction of property.”

Army Gen. Daniel Hokanson, chief of the National Guard Bureau, told reporters Monday that the Guard is also looking at any issues across the country.

“We’re keeping a look across the entire country to make sure that we’re monitoring, and that our Guards in every state are in close coordination with their local law enforcement agencies to provide any support requested,” he said.

Asia

FOR INDONESIA PLANE DEVICES

Divers sift debris, seabed mud

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)— Indonesian navy divers were searching through plane debris and seabed mud Tuesday looking for the black boxes of a Sriwijaya Air jet that nose-dived into the Java Sea over the weekend with 62 people aboard.

A navy ship earlier picked up intense pings being emitted from the boxes containing the cockpit voice and flight data recorders of the Boeing 737-500 that went down Saturday minutes after taking off from the capital, Jakarta, in heavy rain.

The divers were using high-tech “ping locator” equipment to further narrow their hunt beneath 20 meters (65 feet) of seabed mud but the black boxes are buried under tons of sharp objects in the wreckage, Navy Chief Adm. Yudo Margono said.

He said removing those obstacles was slowing efforts to reach the devices. A remote-operated vehicle was sent to the black box location, and Margono said at least 160 divers will be deployed Tuesday to boost the search for the black boxes.

More than 3,600 rescue personnel, 13 helicopters, 54 large ships and 20 small boats have joined the search that already has found parts of the plane and human remains in the water at a depth of 23 meters (75 feet).

So far, searchers have sent



Indonesian Navy ships continue their search for the wreckage of Sriwijaya Air passenger jet that crashed into Java Sea near Jakarta, Indonesia, Monday, Jan. 11, 2021. AP

74 body bags containing human remains to police identification experts who on Monday said they’d identified their first victim, a 29-year-old man, Okky Bisma, a flight attendant.

Anguished family members have been providing samples for DNA tests and police say results are expected within 4-8 days.

National Police spokesman Rusdi Hartono said about 53 samples for DNA testing have been collected but more are still needed, especially from parents and children of victims.

The information contained in the black boxes will be key to learning what downed Flight 182. The devices detached from the tail of the aircraft when it crashed, and the search for them is concentrated between Lancang

and Laki islands in the Thousand Island chain just north of Jakarta.

When found, the devices will be handed to the National Transportation Safety Committee, or NTSC, overseeing the crash investigation.

Indonesia’s NTSC said Singapore’s Transport Safety Investigation Bureau will help in searching for the black boxes and the United States’ National Transportation Safety Board will join in investigating the crash.

The NTSC chairman, Soerjanto Tjahjono, ruled out a possible midair breakup after seeing the condition of the wreckage found by searchers. He said the jet was intact until it struck the water, concentrating the debris field, rather than spreading it out over a large area as would be seen with a midair event.

that China’s government is handing out hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants to scientists researching the virus’ origins in southern China. But it is monitoring their findings and mandating that the publication of any data or research be approved by a new task force managed by China’s Cabinet, under direct orders from President Xi Jinping, according to internal documents obtained by the AP.

The culture of secrecy is believed to have delayed warnings about the pandemic, blocked the sharing of information with WHO and hampered early testing. There was considerable frustration among WHO officials over not getting the information they needed to fight the spread of the deadly virus, AP has found.

Australia and other countries have called for an investigation into the origins of the virus, prompting angry responses from Beijing.

The AP investigation found

nese government.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said China had approved the visit following consultations between the sides and called it an opportunity to “exchange views with Chinese scientists and medical experts on scientific cooperation on the tracing of the origin of the new coronavirus.”

“Along with continuous changes in the epidemic situation, our knowledge of the virus deepens, and more early cases are discovered,” Zhao told reporters at a daily briefing, adding that the search for the origin will likely involve “multiple countries and localities.”

China’s government has strictly controlled all research at home into the origins of the virus, an Associated Press investigation found, while state-owned media have played up fringe theories that suggest the virus could have originated elsewhere.

Officials said the combined law enforcement forces

World

UN says COVID-19 herd immunity unlikely in '21

GENEVA (AP)—The World Health Organization’s chief scientist warned that even as numerous countries start rolling out vaccination programs to stop COVID-19, herd immunity is highly unlikely this year.

At a media briefing on Monday, Dr. Soumya Swaminathan said it was critical countries and their populations maintain strict social distancing and other outbreak control measures for the foreseeable future. In recent weeks, Britain, the U.S., France, Canada, Germany, Israel, the Netherlands and others have begun vaccinating millions of their citizens against the coronavirus.

“Even as vaccines start protecting the most vulnerable, we’re not going to achieve any levels of population immunity or herd immunity in 2021,” Swaminathan said. “Even if it happens in a couple of pockets, in a few countries, it’s not going to protect people across the world.”

Scientists typically estimate that a vaccination rate of about 70% is needed for herd immunity, where entire populations are protected against a disease. But some fear that the extremely infectious nature of COVID-19 could require a significantly higher threshold.

WHO, however, said that most of the recent spikes in transmission were due to “the

Running gun battle in Mexico leaves 9 gunmen, 1 police dead

MEXICO CITY (AP)—A series of running gunbattles in Mexico’s most violent state left nine suspected gunmen and one state police officer dead Monday, authorities said.

The shootouts in north-central Guanajuato state started before dawn near the hamlet of Santa Rosa de Lima, the stronghold of a gang of the same name.

State police, soldiers and National Guard agents rushed to respond to reports of armed men in the area, and all three forces came under fire from heavily armed assailants in vans, SUVs and pickup trucks, officials said.

In the first clash, one state police officer was hit and later died at a hospital. Five assailants were also reported killed.

As reinforcements arrived, they also came under attack and returned fire.

Authorities said hand-lettered drug gang signs were found in some of the vehicles, though they did not release the messages. But a photo from the scene showed

increased mixing of people” rather than the new variants.

WHO’s technical lead on COVID-19, Maria Van Kerkhove, said that the spike in cases in numerous countries was detected before the new variants were identified. Van Kerkhove noted that during the summer, COVID-19 cases were down to single digits in most countries across Europe.

“We lost the battle because we changed our mixing patterns over the summer, into the fall and especially around Christmas and the new year,” she said, explaining that many people had multiple contacts with family and friends over the holidays.

“That has had a direct impact on the exponential growth that you have seen in many countries,” she said, describing the case count increase in some places as “vertical.”

Dr. Michael Ryan, WHO’s emergencies chief, said while there is some evidence variants may be speeding the spread of COVID-19, “there is no evidence that variants are driving any element of severity.” He said the variants shouldn’t alter countries’ strategies for controlling outbreaks.

“It doesn’t change what you do, but it gives the virus some new energy,” Ryan said.

that one of the signs read “People of Santa Rosa de Lima, the CJNG has arrived in your town, we arrived to clean up this bunch of extortionists and killers of innocent people.”

Saucedo said the home-grown Santa Rosa Gang has taken to extorting protection payments from local people, but the Jalisco cartel has also staged its offensive with cruelty, forcing some in areas controlled by the rival gang to flee their homes and properties.

Thousands have been killed in Guanajuato since Santa Rosa de Lima began a turf war to fight off a takeover by the Jalisco cartel in 2017.

Now the state is at the center of a proxy war between drug cartels, after the Sinaloa cartel entered the conflict backing Santa Rosa de Lima with guns, money and hired killers, said Sophia Huett, the Guanajuato security commissioner.

Good Housekeeping

By JEANMARIE BROWNSON
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Brunch. The dine-in restaurant occasion I miss most during this pandemic.

I'm not really thinking of those all-you-can-eat grand buffets (although that sounds decadently delightful). Rather, those leisurely outings with good friends that involve waitstaff, luxurious food and a way-early-for-me cocktail or two. A stroll might follow to aid digestion and keep the conversation flowing, before the need to nap pulls me to the couch.

These days, working at home means the couch often doubles as desk. The cocktail hour creeps into consciousness at dusk. The snack drawer beckons all day.

This January, I declare time to cook our own restaurant-worthy brunch dishes. Eggs covered in a creamy sauce, bacon-y potatoes, seed and nut pancakes sweetened with jam. It makes no matter to the cook when you enjoy them—Sunday morning, Tuesday evening or Friday lunch.

I never have enough pancake recipes. Whole grain, buttermilk, potato, lemon ricotta—we love them all in our family. My pet peeve is the metallic taste of excess leavening found in boxed mixes and some recipes, so I nearly always make my own dry mix. Ingredients on hand inspire the use of various flours, seeds, nut and fruit additions. A love of muesli cereal translated into the version below, chockfull of oats, almonds and dried currants.

I stock bags of frozen cranberries for this speedy cranberry, fig and ginger jam. Make a double batch and package in small refrigerator containers to gift to your former brunch buddies with the dry pancake mix and instructions for cooking.

Bacon and potatoes are a match made in heaven—especially when indulging in breakfast-for-dinner. The hash that follows can be served in individual skillets topped with an egg—reminiscent of pancake house skillet meals.

Like many, I struggle to poach eggs so they look beautiful and stay soft-set. The best technique I've found is simply to keep the barely simmering pan of water swirling when you add the egg. The movement of the water helps coat the yolk with the white. Once done, after about 3 minutes, use a slotted spoon to transfer the egg to a bowl of lukewarm water. The eggs hold in this manner nicely while you reheat the potato mixture to piping hot. Top everything with a lemony, mayonnaise-based sauce—easier than making hollandaise.

I always enlist help while cooking brunch—someone to act as the barista and bartender while I concentrate on the stove. Serve mimosas with the pancakes and bloody marys with the bacon potato skillet.

Fortified, we reminisce and marvel at the skills of the staff at our favorite brunch spots. Let's support them in these difficult times by ordering takeout meals, tipping generously and sending donations. New memories are on the horizon.

■ ■ ■

CINNAMON MUESLI PANCAKES WITH CRANBERRY, FIG AND GINGER JAM

Prep: 20 minutes
Cook: 20 minutes
Makes: 16 four-inch pancakes

Any good-quality thick, not-too-sweet jam can stand in for the homemade version. I like lingonberry when it's available. Gluten-free 1-to-1 baking flour (such as Bob's Red Mill) can be substituted for the flours. Use more oats if you wish to replace the nuts.

1 cup all-purpose flour
3/4 cup whole wheat flour
1/2 cup old-fashioned oats
1/4 cup quinoa flakes or bran flakes (or crushed bran flake cereal)
1/4 cup sliced almonds or pecan pieces, chopped
1/4 cup brown sugar
3 tablespoons roasted or raw sunflower seeds
3 or 4 tablespoons dried currants or chopped golden raisins or

dried cranberries

2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon each: baking soda, salt, ground cinnamon
3 large eggs
1 1/2 cups milk (whole, low-fat or skim all are fine here)
3 tablespoons each: vegetable oil, melted butter
Vegetable oil for high heat cooking, such as sunflower, safflower or expeller-pressed canola oil
Plain or vanilla yogurt
Cranberry, fig and ginger jam, see recipe, warmed
Cranberry or maple syrup

1. Mix flours, oats, quinoa flakes, almonds, brown sugar, sunflower seeds, currants, baking powder, baking soda, salt and cinnamon in a medium bowl. (Or store in a covered container up to several weeks.)

2. To make pancake batter, whisk eggs together in a large bowl. Whisk in milk, 3 tablespoons oil and melted butter. Whisk the flour mixture into the egg mixture just until everything is moistened. Do not overmix. Let stand about 5 minutes.

3. To cook pancakes, heat 1 or 2 large nonstick skillets or a griddle over medium heat until a drop of water sizzles on contact. Lightly brush the surface with a little oil. Use a 1/4 cup measure or ladle to dollop batter in several places over hot surface, allowing 2 or 3 inches between pancakes for spread. Reduce heat to medium-low; cook until bubbles form on the surface and the bottom is golden brown, about 3 minutes. Flip and brown the other side, about 1 minute more.

4. Serve pancakes hot off the griddle topped with yogurt, warm cranberry jam and a drizzle of syrup.

Note: Pancakes can be transferred to a wire rack set over a baking sheet in a 200-degree oven to stay warm while you cook all the batter.

Nutrition information per serving: 164.4 calories, 7.9 g fat, 2.4 g saturated fat, 41.8 mg cholesterol, 19.6 g carbohydrates, 6 g sugar, 4.7 g protein, 206.3 mg sodium, 1.7 g fiber

CRANBERRY, FIG AND GINGER JAM

Prep: 15 minutes
Cook: 10 minutes
Makes: about 2 1/2 cups
1 bag (12 ounces) fresh or frozen cranberries
1 small tart apple or Bartlett pear, peeled, cored, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
7 or 8 dried Turkish figs, chopped, about 3/4 cup (4 ounces)
1/2 cup sugar
Grated zest and juice of half orange
1 to 2 tablespoons finely chopped crystallized ginger
1. Put cranberries, apple, figs, sugar, and orange zest and juice into a medium saucepan. Add 1/2 cup water. Heat to a simmer

TNS
Pancakes with homemade jam prepared and styled by Shannon Kinsella on December 22, 2020.



Brunch recipes re-create this weekend

over medium heat. Cook, covered, to completely dissolve the sugar, 3 minutes. Uncover and simmer on low, stirring often, until most of the cranberries pop, about 10 minutes.

2. Stir in ginger. Cool. Refrigerate covered up to 4 days. Serve warm.

Nutrition information per serving: 24.2 calories, 0 g fat, 0 g saturated fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 6.3 g carbohydrates, 5 g sugar, 0.2 g protein, 0.5 mg sodium, 0.7 g fiber

BACON AND POTATO SKILLET WITH POACHED EGGS AND LEMON THYME MAYONNAISE

Prep: 25 minutes
Cook: 30 minutes
Makes: 4 servings
To save time, skip step 1 and substitute 4 or 5 cups thawed, shredded frozen potatoes or hash browns. You can opt to pan fry the eggs if poached eggs are not your thing.

4 to 5 medium yellow potatoes, about 1 1/2 pounds, scrubbed
Salt
1 tablespoon butter
2 or 3 thick slabs bacon, finely chopped (3 ounces)
1 small onion, finely chopped (4 ounces)

1/2 Golden delicious or 1 small tart apple, peeled, cored, finely

chopped

3 green onions, thinly sliced
1/2 teaspoon dried thyme leaves or 1 teaspoon minced fresh thyme leaves

1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

4 large eggs

1 tablespoon white distilled vinegar

Lemon thyme mayonnaise:

1/2 cup mayonnaise

2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice

1/4 teaspoon dried thyme leaves or 1/2 teaspoon minced fresh thyme leaves

Several dashes red pepper hot sauce, plus more for serving

Vegetable oil for high heat cooking, such as sunflower, safflower or expeller-pressed canola oil

Sliced green onions, parsley sprigs

1. Put whole potatoes and 1/2 teaspoon salt into a large saucepan. Add water to cover them by 1 inch. Heat to a boil and cook, partly covered, until potatoes are not quite fork-tender in the center, about 10 minutes. Drain. Let potatoes cool until you can handle them. Set a four-sided grater into a large bowl. Use the largest holes to shred the potatoes (including the skins) into the bowl.

2. Meanwhile, melt butter in a large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add bacon, onion and apple. Cook until onion is golden and tender, about 10 minutes.

3. Stir shredded potatoes, green onions, thyme, 1 teaspoon salt and 1/2 teaspoon pepper into the skillet containing the onion mixture. Cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until potatoes are beautifully bronzed, about 10 minutes. Set aside to stay warm. (Or, divide mixture among four small skillets or ovenproof bowls and pop into a 200-degree oven to stay warm.)

4. Poach eggs as follows: Fill a large saucepan half full with water. Add vinegar and 1/2 teaspoon salt; heat to a boil. Reduce heat so water is barely at a simmer. Crack 1 egg into a small cup. Use a spoon to swirl the water in the saucepan; slip the egg into the swirling water. Repeat to add remaining eggs to water. Let eggs simmer until whites are nearly set but yolks are still runny, about 3 minutes. Transfer the eggs with a slotted spoon to a bowl of warm water.

5. For sauce, mix mayonnaise, lemon juice, thyme and hot sauce to taste in a small bowl.

6. If necessary, reheat the potato hash until it's very hot. Top with poached eggs and dollops of the sauce. Garnish with more hot sauce, green onions and parsley.

Nutrition information per serving: 563.6 calories, 36.6 g fat, 9.3 g saturated fat, 226.8 mg cholesterol, 42.1 g carbohydrates, 6.6 g sugar, 17.2 g protein, 1,010.1 mg sodium, 4.2 g fiber

Life & Style

A theater of propaganda: The Capitol, cameras and selfies

NEW YORK (AP)—One of the defining images of the Capitol siege was of a man dangling from the balcony of the Senate chamber. Clad in black and with a helmet over his head, he might have been hard to identify even after he paused to sit in a leather chair at the top of the Senate dais and hold up a fist.

But Josiah Colt made it easy. He posted a video to his Facebook page moments later, bragging about being the first to reach the chamber floor and sit in Nancy's Pelosi's chair (he was wrong). He used a slur to describe Pelosi and called her "a traitor."

A little later, the 34-year-old from Boise, Idaho, posted again. This time, he sounded more anxious. "I don't know what to do," Colt said in a video he'd soon delete but not before it was cached online. "I'm in downtown D.C. I'm all over the news now."

Colt was far from the only one documenting the insurrection from within last Wednesday in Washington. Many in the mob that ransacked the Capitol did so while livestreaming, posting on Facebook and taking selfies, turning the seat of American lawmaking into a theater of real-time—and often strikingly ugly and violent—far-right propaganda.

"This extremist loop feeds itself. The folks who are watching and commenting and encouraging and sometimes giving some cash are supporting the individual on the ground. And he's supporting

their fantasies," says Oren Segal, vice president of the Anti-Defamation League's Center on Extremism.

"Selfie culture," Segal says, "has become so much part of the norm that it's almost second nature when you're carrying out a terrorist insurrection."

Taken together, the fragmented feeds from Wednesday's incursion form a tableau of an ill-conceived insurrection—as full of "I was here" posturing for social media as of ideological revolution—and one that was given far more latitude than most peaceful Black Lives Matters protests were in 2020. In hundreds of images, the fallacy of a far-right brand of "patriotism" was laid bare.

The modern Capitol had previously been besieged before only in Hollywood fiction. Marauding aliens in "Mars Attacks!" Ensnarling ivy in "Logan's Run." Blown to bits in "Independence Day." But the imagery of last week's siege offered something far more banal if no less chilling: a warped cinema vérité of right-wing extremism with waving Confederate flags and white-power poses in Capitol halls.

Though many involved Wednesday in Washington were Trump supporters without designs on violence, the visuals illustrate that some were clearly there to summon mayhem if not outright bloodshed.

The call to the Capitol drew many of the right's extremist factions—some of whom



Trump supporters gather outside the Capitol, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington.

AP

helped lead the charge.

The white nationalist Tim Gionet, known online as "Baked Alaska" and a participant in the "Unite the Right" rally at Charlottesville, streamed live from congressional offices, gleefully documenting the break-in for more than 15,000 viewers on the streaming platform Dlive. The service, ostensibly for gamers, has grown into an attractive tool for white nationalists. Nick Fuentes, a leader of the white supremacist "Goyper Army," streamed on Dlive from outside the Capitol. He later tweeted that the siege was "awesome."

Journalists documenting the chaos, and in some cases suffering attacks from violent protesters, captured the storming of the Capitol. But the pervasive self-documentation of the rioters told another story: the on-the-ground culmination of an

online alternative reality fueled by QAnon conspiracies, false claims of fraud in the election and Trump's own rhetoric.

"In their minds they had impunity. I'm having trouble understanding how these people could believe that. At the same time, I can see that it's of a piece with the Trump family," says Larry Rosenthal, chair of the Berkeley Center for Right-Wing Studies and author of the upcoming "Empire of Resentment: Populism's Toxic Embrace of Nationalism."

"They're going to be prosecuted," he says of those involved, and "they have provided the evidence."

Federal law enforcement officials have pledged an exhaustive investigation into the rampage that left five people dead, including Capitol Police officer Brian D. Sicknick. They are re-

lying in part on the social media trail many left behind. "The goal here is to identify people and get them," Ken Kohl, the top deputy federal prosecutor in Washington, told reporters Friday.

Among those arrested so far is Richard Barnett, who was photographed sitting in Pelosi's office with his feet on her desk. Outside the Capitol, he proudly clutched mail he said belonged to Pelosi. The 60-year-old Barnett, from Gravette, Arkansas, faces up to 1 1/2 years in federal prison for two misdemeanors: entering a restricted area and disorderly conduct.

Others have been fired for participating in the mob. The Texas company Goosehead Insurance fired its associate general counsel, Paul Davis, after he posted an Instagram video complaining about being tear-gassed while trying to break into the Capitol. Maryland's Navistar Direct Marketing said it fired an employee who was seen inside the Capitol. He hasn't been identified, but photographs showed a man with an easily visible employee badge from the company around his neck.

Busy mom fights to prevent frustrations from exploding

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 24-year-old woman who has been married for four years. My husband, "Jerry," and I have two young boys. Jerry is military. I stay at home with the kids and work part time online on an associate degree. We struggle financially, but our basic needs are met and, overall, I'm happy with my life.

My problem is I'm finding myself struggling to control a very strong temper. The kids or my husband may be getting on my nerves, or I'm late turning in an assignment, or I'm unable to get housework done—these frustrations build up inside and make me want to throw a fit, scream or throw things, essentially NOT be the cool, responsible adult I typically am.

I know this is incredibly immature, and I realize I'm well off in the grand scheme of things, but this anger still brews. I have never had a problem controlling my temper before. Can you help?

FIRE UP IN FLORIDA

DEAR FIRED UP: The quarantines and lockdowns may be part of the cause of your near meltdowns. Many people are stressed and spread thin, and the isolation isn't helping. Because you are constantly with your children, it's im-

portant that you manage your emotions before venting them on your little ones, which can be destructive. When an adult yells or acts out in front of a small child, the child will often shut down out of fear that violence may follow. This is why it's so important for you to find appropriate ways to express your emotions. My booklet "The Anger in All of Us and How To Deal With It" offers suggestions for directing angry feelings in a healthy way. It can be ordered by sending your name and address, plus a check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to Dear Abby Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. Sometimes when people are frustrated, they lose their temper with those presently around them. In situations like this, it's important to evaluate the source of what might really be irritating you rather than misdirect your anger at a blameless target. The ability to control your emotions is crucial so your children won't grow up thinking that exploding is normal. There are healthy ways of dealing with frustration. Among them: leaving the room, going for a walk or, better yet, a short run, or saying to yourself, "Please, Lord, don't let me lose my temper!" before opening your mouth.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR ABBY: My boss has been making passes at me for the last five months, even though I have told him it makes me uncomfortable. We went out to dinner once, and he is insisting that we do it again. How do I say no to this married man and still keep my job?

UNCOMFORTABLE IN THE SOUTH

DEAR UNCOMFORTABLE: Ask your employer if he is satisfied with your job performance. Tell him a social relationship with a married man is not what you signed on for and, if he becomes punitive, document it and point out that what he is doing could be considered sexual harassment.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



Garfield®



By Jim Davis

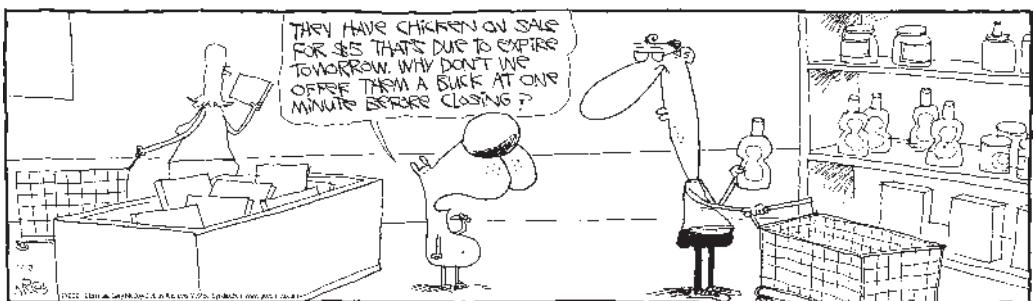


Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

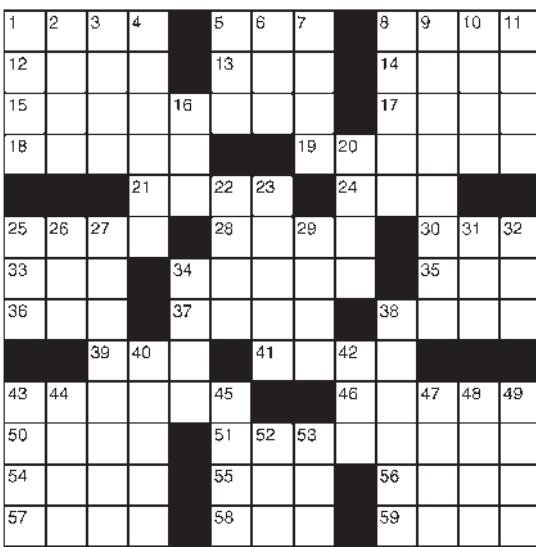
CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	39	OED	DOWN	16	DDE	predecessor
1 Eden evictee	41	Balkan entries native	1 Queens stadium name	20	Throat clearer	
5 Ref	43	Transparent plastic	2 "Carpe —!"	22	Off-white	
8 Great Lakes fish	46	Ore deposits	3 Jai —	23	Temperaments	
12 Missile shelter	50	Rue the run	4 Finicky 9Lives spokescat	25	Homer's cry	
13 Dead heat	51	"Oho!"	5 Multi-purpose truck	26	Tic-tac-toe win	
14 Cousin's mom	54	Conspiracy gp.	6 Actress Farrow	27	Curly-tailed dog	
15 "I agree!"	55	"Strange Magic"	7 Criminal, to cops	29	Work hard	
17 Queue after Q	56	Director Kazan	8 — blanche	31	"Chandelier" singer	
18 Dubai dignitaries	57	Man-handles	9 Top secret	32	Globe	
19 Compassion	58	Firmament	10 Golden Rule prep-position	34	Expansive	
21 Detail	59	Consider	11 A/C measures	38	Acknowledged	
24 Devilish laugh				40	Slimming plans	
25 Medics				42	100%	
28 Doves' home				43	Reindeer herder	
30 GI entertainers				44	Pac-12 school	
33 La-la lead-in				45	Flock females	
34 Engine sound				47	Takeout order?	
35 Polite address				48	Writer Wiesel	
36 "Yoo- —!"				49	Bridge coup	
37 BMW rival				52	Wapiti	
38 Melville captain				53	Myrna of film	



Yesterday's answer 1-13



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Liam Hemsworth, 31; Orlando Bloom, 44; Patrick Dempsey, 55; Julia Louis-Dreyfus, 60.

Happy Birthday: Tension will mount if you can't agree with the people in your life who matter. Refuse to let your ego or emotions create a pattern that makes it difficult for you to acquire the support you require to get things done your way. Concentrate on making physical adjustments that please everyone, not on arguing over something inevitable. Your numbers are 8, 12, 22, 13, 36, 40, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't feel pressured by what others do or say. Go at your speed, and leave no room for error. A bargain or offer is useful only if it's something you need. Know when to refuse, and you'll have no regrets. ☀

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Uncertainty will set in regarding your reputation, position and status. Listen carefully and absorb the facts you receive before you respond or take action. Knowledge is the key to making better decisions. Control your temper, and be mindful of others. ☀

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take heed of what's trending and how to utilize your skills to fit the current scenario. You'll discover how to avoid the pitfalls of falling behind in an economy that's in constant transition. Stay on top of your game. ☀

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A hasty move or decision will lead to regret. Bide your time, and don't feel the need to invest in someone's pipe dream -- concentrate on

being responsible and finding a creative way to improve your skills and professional reputation. Romance is favored. ☀

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A unique individual will grab your attention. Consider the validity of the information shared before you participate. The temptation will not lead to something tangible. Pay more attention to being at your best and less to what others do or say. ☀

ARIES (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Stick to what you know and do best. Update your skills and find out what's trending. How you use your attributes will determine which opportunities are going to pan out for you. Romance is on the rise. ☀

TAURUS (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll get caught in the middle of an unsavory situation if you are too accommodating. Pay closer attention to your health and financial well-being. Make adjustments at home that are conducive to productivity and building good relationships. ☀

GEMINI (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Refuse to let someone's uncertainty hold you back. Look for a unique opportunity and make it work. Taking a distinctive approach to the way you deal with social media will help you get ahead. Self-improvement and romance are featured. ☀

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Find your rhythm and do your own thing. Don't let anyone convince you to invest in something that will benefit others more than it will you. Test your intelligence, research and do what's best for you. ☀

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COURTESY 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Fix up your place to suit your changing lifestyle. A space that allows you to work without interruption will help you discover how to help someone who has something to offer in return. Physical fitness, romance and self-improvement are favored. ☀

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be careful how you handle friends and family. Arguments won't solve anything, but a kind gesture, suggestion or pep talk will. Don't let uncertainty ruin your day. When in doubt, move on to something you feel confident you can manage. ☀

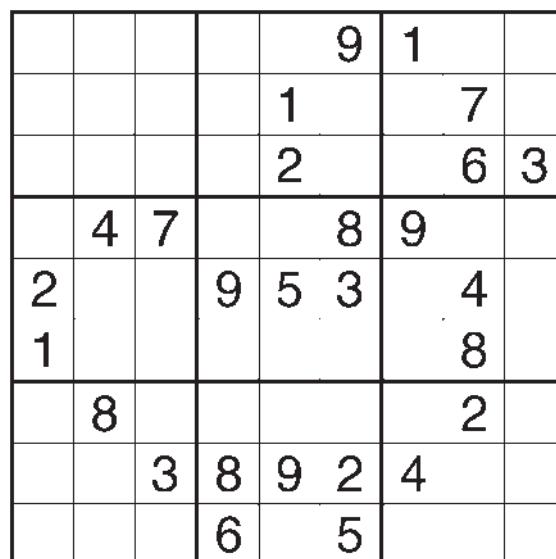
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put more time into helping others and building solid relationships with people who share your concerns and life goals. The rewards you receive will confirm that you are doing something worthwhile. Refuse to let someone without vision stand in your way. ☀

Birthday Baby: You are passionate, ambitious and self-assured. You are flexible and trendy. Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

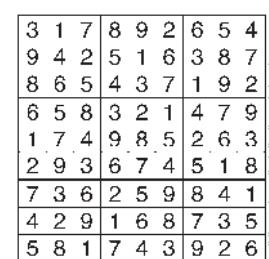


Difficulty Level ★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

KEEP UP WITH YOUR STUDIES

Solution: 8 letters

C	K	C	E	T	A	D	S	E	M	E	S	T	R
U	O	O	Q	T	N	A	L	P	T	S	M	E	T
R	O	M	R	U	D	E	S	K	E	R	A	L	I
R	B	P	M	G	I	F	M	T	S	U	R	B	R
I	T	U	E	U	A	E	O	U	T	O	G	A	W
C	X	T	P	N	N	T	L	C	A	T	N	I	
U	E	E	T	U	C	I	I	A	D	O	I	E	C
L	T	R	O	R	O	I	C	Z	C	E	D	M	I
U	W	E	I	V	E	R	L	A	E	R	I	S	E
M	H	I	G	L	I	G	H	T	S	D	T	T	S
O	E	R	E	D	N	I	B	S	N	E	S	E	K
D	I	M	A	C	R	O	N	Y	M	R	D	A	N
U	N	E	O	U	T	L	I	N	E	G	A	I	L
L	R	E	E	R	A	C	L	A	S	S	H	E	U
E	A	N	A	L	Y	Z	E	R	U	T	C	E	L

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Acronym, Analyze, Article, Binder, Career, Class, Communicate, Computer, Course, Curriculum, Date, Desk, Diagram, Document, Educate, Essay, Folder, Group, Guide, Highlight, Learn, Lecture, Listen, Memory, Module, Notes, Organize, Outline, Pencil, Plan, Quiet, Read, Review, Semester, Skill, Student, Test, Textbook, Think, Timetable, Write
Yesterday's Answer: Irrigation
Treasures 24 through 42 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Giannis returns, leads Bucks' rout of Magic



ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo returned from a one-game absence because of a minor back injury and scored 22 points as the Milwaukee Bucks beat the Orlando Magic 121-99 on Monday night.

Antetokounmpo, the reigning two-time NBA MVP, started slowly and battled through second-half foul trouble before coming alive in the fourth quarter. Milwaukee won a second straight and beat Orlando for a fifth consecutive time in the regular season.

"At the end of the day, I had five fouls, but I was just trying to play the game, go downhill and get my teammates involved," said Antetokounmpo, who had six rebounds and four assists. "I was just wanting to execute down the stretch."

Khris Middleton finished with 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Bucks, while reserve Bobby Portis played well for a second straight game, scoring 20 points.

Nikola Vucevic had 28 points and 13 rebounds to lead the short-handed Magic, who have lost three straight since Markelle Fultz was lost to a season-ending knee injury. Aaron Gordon had 21 points, eight assists and five rebounds and contributed solid defense against Antetokounmpo.

"We felt like we played OK for three quarters and we



Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) tries to get control of a loose ball between Orlando Magic guard Cole Anthony, back left, center Nikola Vucevic (9) and forward Aaron Gordon, right, during the second half of an NBA game, Monday, Jan. 11, 2021, in Orlando, Fla. AP

recep injury.

Devin Booker lead Phoenix (7-4) with 33 points. Chris Paul had 14 points and 11 assists. Mikal Bridges also had 14.

Beal, the NBA's leading scorer, had eight rebounds and nine assists. He missed Saturday's game with Miami because he was in the NBA's health and safety protocol.

Grizzlies 101, Cavaliers 91

In Memphis, Dillon Brooks scored 21 points and Memphis recovered after blowing a 16-point lead to beat Cleveland.

Brandon Clarke scored 15 points and Tyus Jones had 13 points, seven assists and three steals for the Grizzlies, who won their second straight and improved to 3-1 on the road.

Cavaliers center Andre Drummond had 19 points and 14 rebounds for his 11th straight double-double to start the season. Dotson added 14 points and six assists, and Cedi Osman had 14 points.

were right there and then we just made too many mistakes on both ends of the fourth," Vucevic said. "Milwaukee is a team that's going to take advantage of it."

Milwaukee missed 17 of its first 24 3-point shots but drilled six 3s in the fourth quarter. Seconds after Gordon spectacularly dunked over Antetokounmpo to get the Magic within 88-86, Milwaukee's superstar forward hit a straight-on 3-pointer that quieted the pandemic-restricted crowd of 3,248. He followed that up by finding Portis for another 3 as the Bucks went on a 22-2 run.

"He puts in a lot of time and effort in and he's growing in all ways," Milwaukee coach Mike Budenholzer said. "It was just two big plays because the momentum could have swung on the (Gordon) dunk. It's a huge momentum swing for him to make the 3 and then to create the open 3 for Bobby."

winning shot rimmed out on the final play—for the second time in two nights. The same thing happened to him in a one-point loss Sunday to Golden State.

Hawks 112, 76ers 94

In Atlanta, Trae Young scored 26 points, including the first three baskets of Atlanta's dominant start to the second half, and the Hawks beat short-handed Philadelphia.

De'Andre Hunter and Brandon Goodwin had 15 points as the Hawks snapped a four-game losing streak. Clint Capela added 12 points and 10 rebounds as six Atlanta players scored in double figures.

Young, who was held to a combined 22 points in his last two games, regained his scoring touch. He opened the second half with a jumper before adding back-to-back layups.

Joel Embiid led Philadelphia with 24 points and 11 rebounds. Isaiah Joe had 18 points.

Hornets 109, Knicks 88

In Charlotte, Gordon Hayward scored 34 points and Charlotte beat New York for its fourth straight win.

Devonte Graham had 19 points and seven assists for Charlotte, and P.J. Washington had 13 points as the Hornets handed the Knicks their third straight defeat.

Kevin Knox had 19 points to lead the Knicks, and Mitchell Robinson had 12 points and 11 rebounds.

The Hornets scored 24 points off 17 Knicks turnovers. Charlotte committed

10 turnovers while climbing above .500 for the first time this season.

Wizards 128, Suns 107

In Washington, Bradley Beal scored 34 points and the Wizards snapped their three-game

losing streak and won at home for the first time this season, beating Phoenix.

The Wizards (3-8), who had lost five straight at home, played without guard Russell Westbrook. He will miss at least a week with a left quad-

More NBA games off as virus issues grow

DALLAS (AP)—The NBA called off two more games because of COVID-related and contact-tracing issues on Monday, and the Miami Heat

were preparing to be without eight players—including All-Stars Jimmy Butler and Bam Adebayo—for several days because of possible exposure to the coronavirus.

Monday's game in Dallas between the Mavericks and the New Orleans Pelicans was postponed by the league, as well as Tuesday's matchup in Chicago between the Bulls and the Boston Celtics. The league's general managers met Monday to discuss the virus situation, with involvement from the National Basketball Players Association. The NBA's board of governors will meet Tuesday.

The latest postponements came one day after Miami's game in Boston was called off because of contact-tracing issues within the Heat. The Celtics would have been without seven players for virus-related issues for that game. Miami's Avery Bradley, who did not play in the NBA's restart bubble last season out of concern about exposure to the virus, was

also ruled out of that game because of the protocols.

"We're in uncharted waters," Philadelphia coach Doc Rivers said.

Added to the Heat list following contact tracing: Butler, Adebayo, Goran Dragic, Moe Harkless, Udonis Haslem, Kendrick Nunn and KZ Okpala. That does not mean any tested positive, but that tracing showed they may have been exposed to a positive person.

Some may be back in time for Miami's home game Saturday against Detroit.

Another three Heat players are on the injury list, raising the question if they will have the eight required players to start games. NBA GMs, according to a person familiar with the discussion who spoke with The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the conversations were private, talked about increasing roster sizes Monday, along with stiffening protocols about player interaction such as postgame handshakes and hugs—as well as even more of a commitment to social distancing and mask wearing.

Rivers said he's not in favor of adding to the roster size, but suggested a nine-player minimum instead of the current eight might be a prudent change "to have a healthy chance of playing an NBA game."

The Heat were flying from Boston to Philadelphia on Monday night in advance of a game there Tuesday, while another flight was bringing those who needed to be quarantined back to Miami, said a person familiar with the situation. The person spoke to AP on condition of anonymity because those details were not publicly released.

"I think the general sentiment is that everyone wants to play but also everyone wants to be safe first," Heat guard Duncan Robinson said during an appearance on Reddit.

Dallas—which was without starters Josh Richardson and Dorian Finney-Smith and backup Jalen Brunson on Saturday because of virus issues—did not have enough players cleared to play Monday because the contact-tracing process was still ongoing, said a person with knowledge of that situation who spoke with AP on condition of anonymity because it had not been disclosed publicly.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	7	3	.700	0.0
Philadelphia	7	4	.636	0.5
New York	5	6	.455	2.5
Brooklyn	5	6	.455	2.5
Toronto	2	8	.200	5.0

Central

Central	W	L	PCT	GB
Milwaukee	7	4	.636	0.0
Indiana	6	4	.600	0.5
Cleveland	5	6	.455	2.0
Chicago	4	7	.364	3.0
Detroit	2	8	.200	4.5

Southeast

Southeast	W	L	PCT	GB
Orlando	6	5	.545	0.0
Charlotte	6	5	.545	0.0
Miami	4	4	.500	0.5
Atlanta	5	5	.500	0.5
Washington	3	8	.273	3.0

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific	W	L	PCT	GB
LA Lakers	8	3	.727	0.0
LA Clippers	7	4	.636	1.0
Phoenix	7	4	.636	1.0
Golden State	6	4	.600	1.5
Sacramento	5	6	.455	3.0

Southwest

Southwest	W	L	PCT	GB
Dallas	5	4	.556	0.0
San Antonio	5	5	.500	0.5
New Orleans	4	5	.444	1.0
Memphis	4	6	.400	1.5
Houston	3	5	.375	1.5

Northwest

Northwest	W	L	PCT	GB
Utah	6	4	.600	0.0
Portland	6	4	.600	0.0
Oklahoma City	5	4	.556	0.5
Denver	5	5	.500	1.0
Minnesota	3	7	.300	3.0

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eagles fire Pederson 3 years after Super Bowl win

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Doug Pederson lost his job less than three years after he led the Philadelphia Eagles to the franchise's only Super Bowl title.

Pederson was 42-37-1 in five seasons. He guided the Eagles to two division championships and three playoff appearances before going 4-11-1 in 2020. Pederson led the Eagles to a Super Bowl victory over New England in just his second season with backup quarterback Nick Foles filling in after Carson Wentz was injured. Pederson and Foles again led the Eagles to a playoff win the following year after Wentz went down late in the season.

Owner Jeffrey Lurie made the decision after meeting with Pederson last week and again Monday.

"Very few people probably after success deserve to lose their job," Lurie said. "This is much more about the evaluation of whether the Eagles moving forward, our best option is to have a new coach and that's really what it's about... He did not deserve to be let go."

Pederson had two years remaining on his contract. Lurie said he wouldn't be surprised if another team hired Pederson before the end of the week.

"Although I am disappointed that this chapter of my career has come to an end, I am extremely proud of what we accomplished together," Pederson said in a statement.

"Through all the ups and downs, one thing remained constant about our team—an unwavering commitment to battle through adversity and to achieve our goals not as individuals, but as a collective unit. There is no better example of that than when we celebrated the first Super Bowl championship in Eagles history together with our city. That is a memory we will all cherish forever."

Pederson's loyalty to his coaching staff and frustration with the front office's interference became a major issue, according to a person familiar with the decision who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the conversations. The person also said Pederson and general manager Howie Roseman weren't on the same page regarding many personnel moves, including draft picks and use of veteran players.

The team's draft failures in recent years from taking wide receiver J.J. Arcega-Whiteside over DK Metcalf in 2019 to selecting wideout Jalen Reagor one pick before Justin Jefferson in 2020 contributed to the offense's struggles along with numerous injuries and quarterback Wentz's poor performance.

Ultimately, Lurie chose Roseman over Pederson.

"I have real confidence that our football operations, led by Howie, can not only repeat the performance of 2016 until now, and once again, create a dominant football team that can really maximize every aspect of its potential," Lurie said.

Lurie indicated Pederson wasn't on board with rebuilding.

"It's a transition point and we've got to get younger and we have to have a lot more

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—By batting down Philip Rivers' desperation pass as time ran out to secure Buffalo's first playoff victory in 25 years, safety Micah Hyde and the defense pushed its bend-but-don't-break reputation to its limits.

It wasn't pretty, nor easy, Hyde acknowledged, noting how he sensed a tinge of lingering nerves among his teammates upon entering the celebratory locker room following the 27-24 win over the Indianapolis Colts in an AFC wild-card playoff on Saturday.

And he was among the first to acknowledge the Bills have plenty to clean up, even before learning Buffalo's divisional-round opponent will be Lamar Jackson and the run-happy Baltimore Ravens (12-5) following their 20-13 win at Tennessee on Sunday.

"There's still a lot of stuff we have to work on and that's weird to say after winning a

Bills' bend-but-don't-break defense to be tested by Ravens

NFL PLAYOFFS



playoff game," Hyde said. "But that's the truth."

The Bills' defense hasn't been the reliable and sturdy unit it was in finishing among the NFL's top three in fewest yards allowed the previous two seasons. Buffalo (14-3)

has at times struggled against the run, had difficulty getting stops on third down, and walked a perilous line by allowing opponents to mount fourth-quarter comebacks.

It happened in a 35-32 win in Week 2 over the Rams, in

which Los Angeles pulled ahead by rallying from a 28-3 deficit. Josh Allen bailed out the Bills with a 3-yard TD pass to Dawson Knox with 15 seconds left. The Bills were in jeopardy of losing to New England in Week 8 before

backup defensive lineman Justin Zimmer stripped Cam Newton of the ball at Buffalo's 14 with 31 seconds left to seal a 24-21 win.

And the most egregious example came on Nov. 15 in a 32-30 loss at Arizona, which



In this Dec. 1, 2019 file photo, Philadelphia Eagles head coach Doug Pederson talks to quarterback Carson Wentz (11) on the sidelines during the first half at an NFL game in Miami Gardens, Fla. AP

reer and started rookie Jalen Hurts. Pederson had said repeatedly he was confident he could fix Wentz and get him back on track.

He won't get that chance now.

Wentz's \$128 million, four-year contract kicks in this year and he knows the Eagles control whether to keep him or trade him. Wentz has been taking time away to reflect on his situation before meeting with the team to discuss his future, a person close to the situation told the AP last week. Wentz was frustrated with his season and unhappy that he got benched, but he had no input into Pederson's firing, two people said.

"Carson and Doug got along way better than people think," a teammate told the AP on Monday. "That stuff got exaggerated."

The player spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss private conversations.

Wentz hasn't spoken to reporters since Dec. 6. He didn't immediately return a phone call from the AP on Monday.

Pederson was a starting quarterback in Philadelphia in 1999 and later served as an assistant coach under Andy Reid with the Eagles and Kansas City Chiefs. The Eagles hired him in January 2016 after abruptly firing Chip Kelly a month earlier.

DeAndre Hopkins sealed with a leaping 43-yard touchdown catch with 2 seconds remaining. Buffalo has won seven straight since.

The memory wasn't lost on Hyde, one of three Bills defenders surrounding Arizona's Hopkins, as Rivers heaved a 47-yard attempt intended for T.Y. Hilton.

"I just backed up in the end zone and said, 'Dang, no way this is happening again,'" said Hyde, who burst through a crowd of bodies to bat down the ball with two hands. "I wish I would've done that in AZ, but hey, you learn something."

The Bills' defense held in a game the Colts enjoyed an eight-plus minute edge in time of possession, crossed midfield on all nine drives except for a kneel-down to end the first half, and generated 472 yards offense—the most by a losing team that didn't commit a turnover in NFL playoff history.

Hendriks OKs \$54M contract with White Sox

ILLINOIS—The Chicago White Sox and Liam Hendriks have agreed to a three-year contract with an option for a fourth year, according to reports.

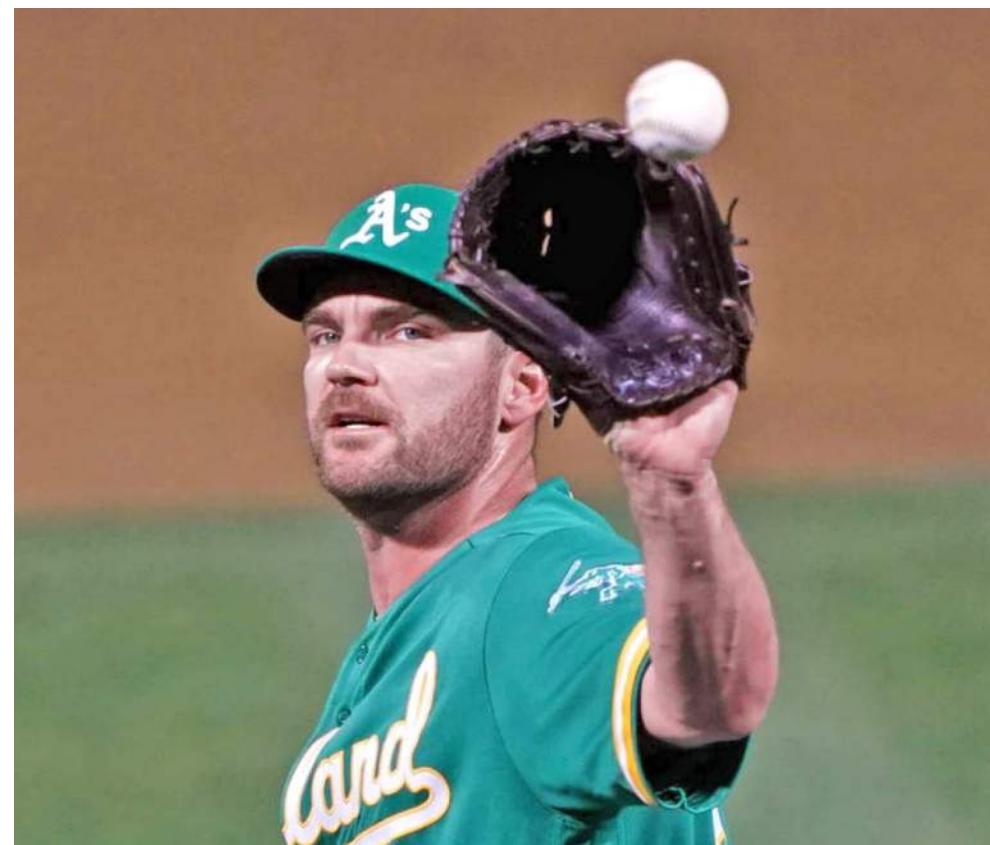
Hendriks will earn \$54 million whether or not the option is picked up.

The A's acquired Hendriks in a trade with Toronto Blue Jays in 2015. Over five seasons in Oakland, the Australian righty emerged as one of MLB's best relievers. He was an All-Star in 2019, and the AL Reliever of the Year during the coronavirus pandemic-shortened 2020 season.

In 25 1/3 innings this season, Hendriks posted a 1.78 ERA and 0.67 WHIP. His emergence into an All-Star over the last few seasons priced him out of Oakland's range.

"It's an exciting time, but bittersweet, because we have friends with the Oakland organization," Hendriks told The San Francisco Chronicle's Susan Slusher on the "A's Plus" podcast last month. "Not just players, but coaches and front-office staff and personnel at the stadium, it's always a tough time going into something like this because of how much you're subtracting. It's an exciting time for what we're looking forward to, but a sad time because of what we're leaving behind."

Hendriks ended his time in Oakland with an 11-12 record, 40 saves, a 3.08 ERA and a 1.13 WHIP. With Hendriks headed for the South Side of Chicago, Jake Diekman appears to be the like-



liest reliever to become the next A's closer.

In addition to Hendriks, starting pitcher Mike Minor and outfielder Robbie Grossman have also left the A's in free agency. Shortstop Marcus Semien, who finished third in AL MVP voting in 2019, remains a free agent.

162-game season

MLB commissioner Rob Manfred told teams Monday that they should be preparing for a full schedule this year, including a full 162-game regular season and spring training starting in February as usual.

The league wanted to delay

the start of the season by at least a month so more players and fans could get vaccinated—and more stadiums could open. But the MLBPA—whose approval the league would need to delay the season due to the CBA—fought against it, making it clear that they would not accept anything less than 100 percent of the pay this season.

Spring training is set to begin Feb. 17 in Arizona and Florida, with Opening Day scheduled for April 1.

"While there will continue to be challenges," the union said in a prepared statement to The Athletic last month, "our players have proven they can safely play a season under difficult circumstances, as have the other sports."

In this June 26, 2019 file photo, Oakland Athletics Liam Hendriks catches a throw from Beau Taylor during their game against the St. Louis Cardinals in St. Louis.

Lindor excited with move to Mets

Francisco Lindor smiled widely for a full 40 minutes, enthralled to join a New York Mets team bulking up under new owner Steven Cohen.

"They say it's probably very contagious," the Mets' new shortstop said. "I'm living my dream. I'm living the life I always wanted, so I don't see why not."

Cleveland traded the four-time All-Star to New York along with pitcher Carlos Carrasco on Thursday for infielders Andres Gimenez and Amed Rosario plus a pair of minor league prospects, right-hander Josh Wolf and outfielder Isaiah Greene.

"I'm excited to be with the Mets organization. I'm not against a long term. I'm not against it," Lindor said in a news conference from Florida, wearing his new team's royal blue cap. "It has to make sense of both sides."

Lindor said he would not

want to negotiate once he starts spring training, preferring to focus then on playing and hopefully winning. He earned \$6,481,481 prorated from a \$17.5 million salary last year, is eligible for arbitration next month and can become a free agent after this season. His agent, Dave Mester, had discussed a long-term deal with the Indians.

"We talked and we gave it our best effort on both sides," Lindor said.

But the Indians did not think they could afford a multiyear contract with the 27-year-old, so they chose to make the trade.

Cohen, a billionaire hedge fund manager, bought the Mets on Nov. 6 from the Wilpon and Katz families. The Mets had the third-highest payroll last year behind the World Series champion Los Angeles Dodgers and New York Yankees, and the Mets' offseason has included giving pitcher Marcus Stroman an \$18.9 million, one-year deal; injured right-hander Noah Syndergaard a \$9.7 million, one-year contract; right-handed reliever Trevor May a \$15.5 million, two-year agreement; and catcher James McCann a \$40.6 million, four-year deal. (AP/NBC)

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From Page 20

Top 3 overall rankings were two Saipan female runners—Moji de Luna and Tania Tan. De Luna tallied 223.18 miles, while Tan, who earned most of her mileage while running in Hawaii, registered 190.95 miles with the last 13-plus miles made on Saipan.

The 10 other runners to hit past the 100-mile were all from Saipan. Marilou Carlos was ranked fourth overall with her 171.92 miles and was followed by Jay-Ar Barrios (144.89), Vhoie Francia (129.23), Ambet Omampo (127.65), Yulia Aleksenko (122.98), Nancy Omampo (119.54), Eric Abragan (110.28), Daryll De Luna (102.37), Mie Takatsuji (102.22), and Lydia Tan (100.39).

Sharon Abragan and Christian Joseph Yap missed meeting the 100-mile challenge, but were still recognized in last Sunday's awards ceremony after rounding out the Top 15 finishers. Abragan had 97.23 miles, while Yap registered 93.46.

Meanwhile, players and of-

ficials of the CNMI national football teams had a separate competition in the Life in the Son Go the Xtra Mile Virtual Run/Walk Challenge with Jersh Angeles, Anthony Fruit, and Sebastian Manabat making it to the Top 3.

Angeles logged the most miles with his 96.02, while the Germany-based Fruit recorded 76.84 miles to rank second. Manabat's 50.2 miles landed him at the No. 3 spot. Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director and head coach Michiteru Mita and men's national team goalie Christopher Aninzo had 43 and 41.44 miles, respectively to round out the Top 5.

More than 50 CNMI players and coaches joined the Life in the Son Go the Xtra Mile Virtual Run/Walk Challenge as part of their cross training. They were given option to walk/run 50 or 100 miles from Dec. 1 to 31, 2020.

The event was open for both on and off-island runners/walkers and was organized to encourage people to be active, especially at this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

VISA

From Page 20

to come to Saipan along with citizens of the Marshall Islands, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and American Samoa—another U.S. territory. Palau, FSM, and the Marshall Islands can enter the U.S. and its territories without a visa because they are part of the Compact of Free Association.

Neither Peter nor Hirsh

elaborated on the visa concerns, but it was discussed in previous meetings about the Mini Games the possibility of providing visa waiver to the affected countries during the competition period. Securing a U.S. visa is expected to be major challenge for several participating countries at this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pacific Games Council chief executive officer Andrew Minogue, who joined

virtually the committee's first meeting since it was formed late last year, estimated the number of athletes, officials, and guests coming to Saipan for the Mini Games between 800 and 1,000.

The number could grow depending on the decision of the PGC and member-countries regarding the suggested inclusion of tennis and weightlifting to the competition's sports program. Initially, only six sports were approved for calendar



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
2022 Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee chair Marco Peter, left, talks, while Oversight Committee member J.J. Atalig listens during a meeting at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium early this month.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Athletes compete in the steeplechase event in the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa. Athletics is in the program for the 2022 Pacific Mini Games that will be held here.



**Giannis returns,
leads Bucks'
rout of Magic**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Eagles fire
Pederson
3 years after
Super Bowl win**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Visa issues for Games' delegates raised

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2022 Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee will be talking to the United States Customs and Border Protection and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to address concerns on the entry of non-U.S. athletes and officials to Saipan for the regional competition.

The committee chair, Marco Peter, said they will reach out to the two federal agencies under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in response to Northern Marianas Sports Association's inquiry on the visa requirement for the Pacific Mini Games delegates. NMSA treasurer John Hirsh during the committee's meeting held early this month said that citizens of several countries participating in the rescheduled competition may need a visa to enter the CNMI, which will host the Mini Games from June 17 to 25 in 2022.

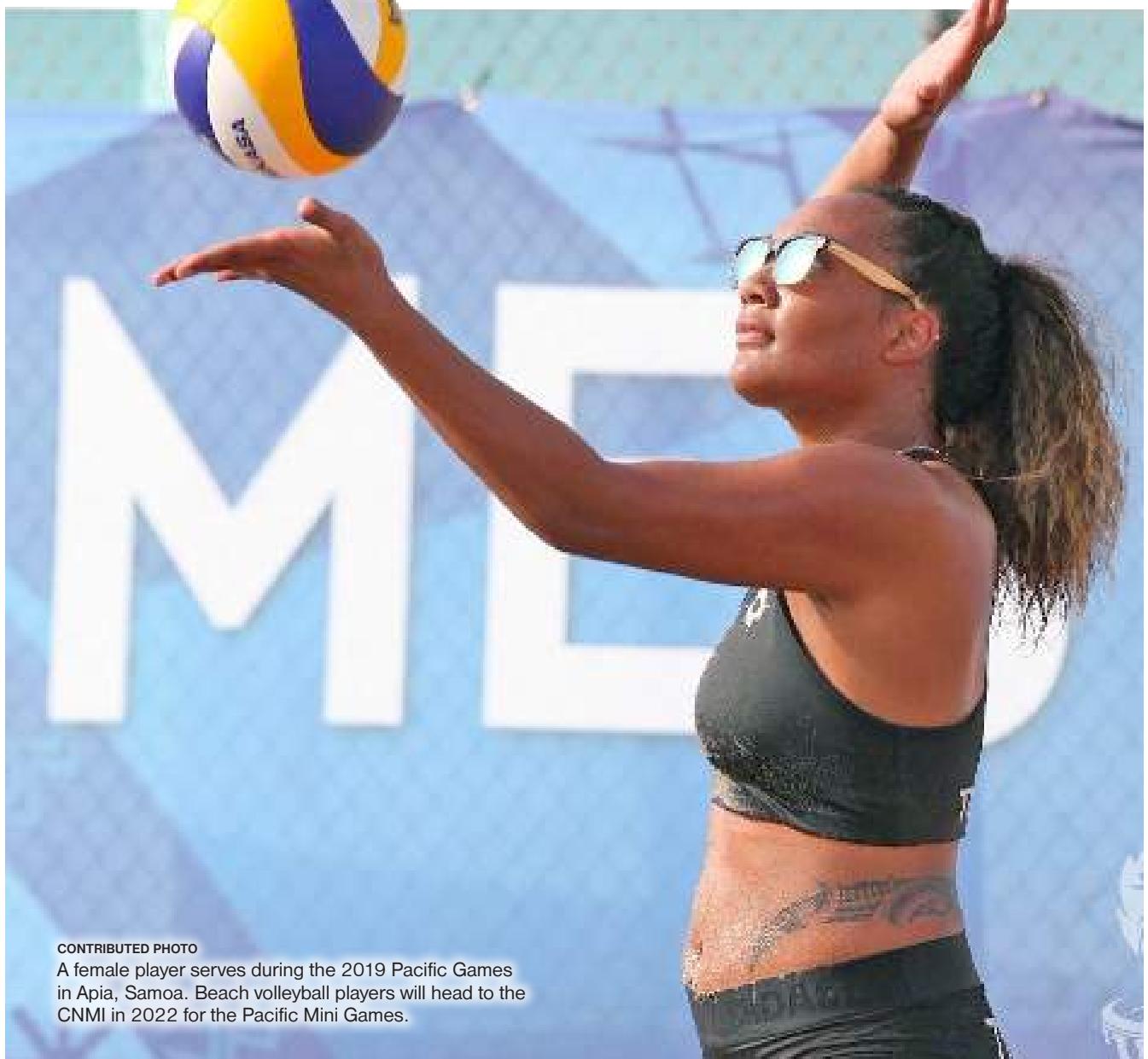
The host transitioned from local to federal immigration law in November 2009, mandating non-immigrant visitors seeking entry to the CNMI to



secure a U.S. visa. The Pacific Games Association has 22-member countries and 14 of them are not included in the CNMI and U.S. visa waiver programs—Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Niue, Norfolk Island, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna. New Caledonia could be taken out of the list of countries whose citizens will need a U.S. visa since it's a French territory and France is included on the 39 nations under the U.S. visa waiver program.

Papua New Guinea and Nauru are among the 14 countries on the CNMI visa waiver program and will have a pass

See VISA on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A female player serves during the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa. Beach volleyball players will head to the CNMI in 2022 for the Pacific Mini Games.

13 runners reach past 100-mile target

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thirteen runners who participated in the Life in the Son Go the Xtra Mile Virtual

Run/Walk Challenge made it past the 100-mile mark as the event concluded last Dec. 31.

Fifty-eight year-old Lito Recto of Saipan logged the

most miles in the month-long challenge after recording 316.29. Joining Recto in the

See 13 on Page 19



IRINE DEANG

Life in the Son Go the Xtra Mile Virtual Run/Walk Challenge winners pose for a group photo during the event's awards ceremony last Sunday at the Life in the Son Main Hall.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sebastien Manabat, front right, seen here running with his fellow CNMI players and middle distance runner Noriko Jim, left, participated in the Life in the Son Go the Xtra Mile Virtual Run/Walk Challenge.